

HALESOWEN CHRONICLE



Thursday, August 2, 2012

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Board stunts

Skateboarders put on display for youngsters

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Showjump joy

Sisters celebrate winning at international pony event

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Mystery surrounds death of cyclist, 45

A CYCLIST from Kingswinford has been found dead at the roadside by a passing driver.

Paul Lake, aged 45, had suffered serious injuries and was pronounced dead at the scene.

Police have said it is not clear how Mr Lake, who worked as an inspector for Wolverhampton Homes, was injured before he was discovered in Stallings Lane, Kingswinford on Sunday.

A passer-by spotted him lying at the roadside at about 5.40pm.

Mr Lake was lying on a grass verge lined by trees on the Gornal-bound side of the road, between Pennett Trading Estate and Tansey Green Road.

Police are now waiting for the results of a post mortem. Friends today paid tribute. Tony Hassall, aged 66, of East Park, Wolverhampton, said he had worked with Mr Lake several years ago.

"I'm so upset - absolutely in bits. He was a lovely fellow, a real gentleman," he said.

"He will be terribly missed by everyone who knows him. He was a really good man."

Nearby residents and workers say the road would have been "deserted".

Anyone who saw what happened on or around Stallings Lane is urged to call police on 101.

Baby girl in car rescue

A 15-MONTH-OLD girl was rescued by firefighters after being accidentally locked in a car by her mother.

Brierley Hill crews were called by the mother to the car park at Merry Hill shopping centre. Crews smashed a window of the Vauxhall Zafira and rescued the girl.

They retrieved the keys for the seven-month pregnant woman who had accidentally locked the car.

Crew commander Tom Edwards from Brierley Hill, said: "She called the AA and they said they couldn't get there for 40 minutes."

UNCERTAIN FUTURE FOR HERO'S GYM

by Adam Burling

THE HALESOWEN gymnastics club where Olympic medallist Kristian Thomas began his road to glory faces an uncertain future as it struggles to find funding, bosses have revealed.

As the Earls Gymnastics Club in Furnace Lane this week celebrated the historic bronze success of 23-year-old member Kristian - its chairman admitted the base was "stumbling from one year to the next". Five coaches have already been laid off this year and the £100,000 a year running costs are paid solely from membership fees as the club receives no grants from the council or sports bodies. Kristian, of Wolverhampton, and his teammates won Great Britain's first medal in the team event for a century on Monday. The London 2012 Olympic star trains at the Halesowen club two or three times a week and has been with the club since he was a child.

Murder case police plea to witnesses

THE FAMILY of a man who was murdered close to his home have paid tribute to him as "caring and compassionate" - as a fresh appeal was made for witnesses.

Shane Watson, aged 23, was found with serious head injuries in an alleyway in Springfield Grove, just a short distance from his Sedgley home, on Saturday morning. He died in hospital soon afterwards.

Mr Watson had been enjoying a night out with family and friends at Sedgley's Ex Servicemen's Club before spending the rest of his evening in Monty's Wine Bar, in High Street, in the hours before his death.

In a statement, his family said: "Shane was popular with all who met him and was a caring, compassionate family man and he had been a pillar of strength recently following a family bereavement. He was his dad's best mate and the apple of his mum's eye. He always used to say that life is short and to have fun and create memories that make you smile."

They added: "We are grateful for witnesses that have so far come forward and would like to encourage others who may be able to help to do the same."

Detectives today appealed for revellers to come forward. Anyone with information is asked to call CID on 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555111. Shylon Wishart, 19, of North Springfield, and James Cartwright, 18, of Sandyfields Road, both Sedgley, have been charged with murdering Mr Watson.

Chairman John Caulwell said: "We are a conveyor belt for talent here and it is ridiculous we have someone like Kristian winning a bronze medal at the Olympics and we are struggling to pay for new equipment."

The club, which has about 400 members, pays £28,500 a year in rent to the Earls High School after a £6,000 increase in three years. Dudley Council used to pay towards running of the club but withdrew funding in 2000, Mr Caulwell said, and "parachute payments" from the authority to help it keep going stopped in 2007.

The "high performance" coaches, who usually focus on the elite gymnasts, are now being forced to lead recreational classes after jobs were cut.

Champion

There are five international competitors training at the club along with Kristian, including reigning Commonwealth youth champion Dominick Cunningham, 17, and Mr Caulwell's 13-year-old son, Harry, who is a member of the Great Britain squad.

Mr Caulwell, who works voluntarily at the club, added: "I'm hoping with all my heart Kristian's success highlights the way we are producing elite performers from very humble beginnings and inspires someone to give us a break and help us out."

"If someone offered me £1.5 million to build a new facility I would snap their hand off but really we just need a helping hand for the next three or four years to take the pressure off."

Earlier this week friends and coaches gathered to watch Kristian make history and dramatically scoop an Olympic bronze medal. More than 50 packed into the club to watch it all unfold on television.

Kristian's coach at Earls, Michelle Bradley, was in London to see him win the medal. She said: "He's made me proud, the club proud, his parents proud - he's a hero."

● History - Page 40



Supportive friends gathered at Earls Gymnastics Club, Halesowen

Drowned teenager was 'pride and joy'

TRIBUTES have been paid to a teenager who drowned in a disused quarry while on holiday.

The family of 15-year-old Augusto Zacarias described him as their "pride and joy" after he died falling into swollen waters at the marl hole pool at the back of the Crooked House, Himley.

They said he was a promising footballer who hoped to play professionally.

Augusto was visiting family from Portugal with his parents, Paulina and Pedro, as well as his young brother, and had been in the country less than three weeks. He had only days ago celebrated his 15th birthday.

It is believed Augusto was staying with relatives in High Areal, Sedgley and had gone to the quarry with his friends and cousin.

His mother and father spoke of their grief at losing their eldest child.

They said: "Augusto was our first child, who we loved with all our hearts. He was a loving son and older brother to Samuel."

"Augusto loved to play football and hoped to play professionally one day."

"He was a very sensible young man and had begun to make plans for the future should he not have been successful as a footballer. He planned to continue his studies and eventually work in engineering."

● Security - Page 4

Police step up patrols

POLICE patrols are being stepped up in Brierley Hill following complaints about anti-social behaviour.

Officers have received complaints from residents living near Oakfield Court who have reported people causing a nuisance.

Residents will be given an update at the next PACT meeting on August 23 at Hawbush Community Centre, Hawbush Road.

There have also been reports about groups of youngsters congregating around Wallows Road.

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'Breakthrough' in parking wrangle

A NEW car park is being lined up in Gornal after more than 20 years of campaigning by residents and traders.

A study has been launched by Dudley Council to look at creating the car park on its own land based off Abbey Street.

Plans for a car park in the village have sparked on and off discussions for more than two decades without progress despite the support of resi-

dents and traders. Schemes have previously stalled because of finding a suitable site in the heart of the village to create enough spaces.

But Councillor Stuart Turner said a "major breakthrough" had now been made in the development and a study was now being carried out.

He said the council was looking at the possibility of building the park on land at the side of and behind the Darby and Joan Club.

Councillor Turner said: "This has been the number one issue in Gornal for many years. For years the village has been the only area in Dudley without a car park.

"Hundreds of new houses are being built in and around Gornal so the need is now greater than ever. Businesses, already struggling in the downturn, have made it clear to me that unless something is done they will miss out on new opportu-

nities. The potential of this site became clear to me while looking at issues around Abbey Street."

Trader John Ball, who runs the Village Hardware and Garden store in Louise Street, said a car park was desperately needed. "I have been here 10 years and in all that time we have been pushing for a car park.

"The amount of trade the village has lost due to the lack of parking is incredible."

Final run of £37m housing starting

THE FINAL stage of a £37 million project to build more than 300 homes on the site of a run-down former Dudley Council housing estate is starting.

The properties are being built as part of the Friars Gate scheme on Priory Road. Some 100 homes have already been built and work is now beginning on another 214. Nearly 300 properties on the old North Priory estate were demolished.

Residents including a mix of newcomers to the area and people who used to live on the former North Priory housing estate have begun to move in.

Dudley Council has worked with affordable housing provider, Bromford and Keepmoat Homes to develop the first stage of the scheme, which has cost £11m with funding from the government's Homes and Communities Agency.

Dudley Council has worked with developer Bromford to secure £2.6million from the government's Homes and Communities Agency.

Of the additional 214 homes being built, 120 will be for outright sale and 94 will be for rent.

MUSLIM leaders have been granted an appeal against the High Court's decision to throw out plans for a new mosque - meaning the long-running dispute is heading back to the courtroom.

Safety fears for boarders doing stunts in car park

SKATEBOARDERS using ramps at a town centre car park in Stourbridge to perform tricks are putting themselves and drivers at risk, say concerned residents.

Groups of teenagers are congregating at the main entrance and exit ramps to the Ryemarket car park at busy times during the afternoon and early evening.

Calls have now been made for Dudley Council to take action and deal with the problem amid fears someone will be hurt.

Residents say skateboarders are hurtling down ramps at the car park despite the high volume of vehicles using the site.

They fear one of the youngsters will be hit by a vehicle or the skateboarders could collide with people walking on the ramps to reach their cars.

Similar problems with skateboarders affected the Bell Street car park for many years before its demolition in March and were not resolved. Residents say the problem has now moved to the other multi-storey car park.

Stourbridge Township Council chairman Margaret Scott said youngsters were embarking on a "very dangerous practice".

It comes just weeks after council chiefs in Dudley thought they had reached a conclusion to the seven-year wrangle.

The proposals for a mosque on land in Hall Street were rejected at a hearing in April, meaning the plot of land, which Dudley Muslim Association has owned since 2005, must now be sold back to the council.

It had argued the land should have been developed by a 2008 deadline.

Council bosses managed to get many of the group's arguments for stopping the buy-back plan thrown out by judges at a court hearing in November.

But the association submitted an amended defence, which was rejected.

Officials

Association chairman Dr Kurshid Ahmed confirmed the dispute will go back before the High Court after officials gave them the go-ahead to appeal. They had already submitted an application and were waiting for a decision.

He said: "We do not know a timescale yet - it depends on when it is processed and the court lists it. But the appeal has been granted."

Dr Ahmed has previously said he would talk to the council about potential alternative sites.

But he insisted the Muslim Association had not had the opportunity to put across its full arguments during the court case.

Vintage cars and bikes roll in



Next to his 1925 Bean tourer, is, left, Jim Thomas, of Dudley, and Maurice Luscott-Evans, of Kidderminster, during the festival at the Black Country Living Museum

CLASSIC car fans drove from all over the country to the annual Black Country Living Museum Historic Vehicle Festival.

Those on show included Turner models from the 1940s and 60s, Westfield models from Kingswinford and even a 1914 Star in red and gold from the Wolverhampton factory. Among them were also Sunbeam motorcycles, some from 1913, and rival

models by AJS from the 1930s. Terry Bouncer, a grandfather and sales manager from Stourbridge, showed his Sunbeam 1440 from 1925. He spent six months restoring it, and it came with a service history describing how it was the chauffeur-driven escort of its only previous owner, West Bromwich industrialist Henry Longhurst.

Call to help ex-military

DUDLEY MP Ian Austin has urged Black Country businesses to join a new effort to get former members of the armed forces into work.

The Veterans Interview Programme (VIP) is a scheme in which companies voluntarily guarantee an interview for job-seeking ex-forces.

Mr Austin has written to Dudley Council and the Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust to get their support. More than 20 national employers including O2, Greggs and John Lewis are already taking part.

Choir from Oz

AN AUSTRALIAN choir will bring the sound of Down Under to Dudley at a concert in a town church.

The Australian Voices will perform at St Andrew's Church, Netherton on September 26 at 7.30pm. Tickets cost £15 for adults. Call 02032866786.

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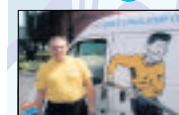
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Churches damage claims up

MORE than 400 insurance claims have been submitted by West Midlands churches targeted by metal thieves during the past four years, new figures reveal.

Church insurance company Ecclesiastical has paid out around £880,000 to help cover the loss and cost of repairs since the start of 2009.

Almost 200 claims have been lodged by churches in the Diocese of Lichfield compared with 140 in the Diocese of Birmingham and 100 in the Diocese of Worcester as buildings have been targeted by criminals.

The number of claims made last year in the three areas is more than triple the amount submitted in 2009.

Churches are increasingly falling prey to raiders looking to cash in on the rising value of scrap metal. In the Diocese of Lichfield more than 20 claims were made in 2009 which soared to 100 in 2011. Between January and May this year, a further 10 claims were made.

The total paid out since 2009 is almost £370,000. In the Birmingham diocese, which covers parts of Sandwell, the number of claims increased from around 10 in 2009 to 70 in 2011.

Expansion bid dropped

PROPOSALS to almost treble the size of a cottage have been scrapped after its owners' appeal against a council decision to refuse it planning permission was dismissed.

Plans to develop Lawnwood Cottage, Stourbridge, were submitted by Mark Harris to South Staffordshire Council in January.

They included extending the existing building from 50 sq m to 140 sq m.

Councillors refused permission in February but the owners appealed.

Plans to grow

A RESIDENTIAL home in Dudley is planning to nearly double the number of rooms on offer.

Bosses at Highfield in Stream Road, Kingswinford, want to build a single-storey extension with an extra nine rooms to the existing 11.

The proposed extension would be directly behind the original two-storey building.

Former button factory is levelled for home

A DERELICT button factory standing at the gateway to Halesowen has been demolished, paving the way for a long-awaited transformation into a care home.

Residents and councillors demanded action at the former James Grove and Sons site on Stourbridge Road, after the building became derelict.

They claimed it was an eyesore, blighting the view for people living and travelling into the town.

James Grove and Sons, which has manufactured buttons since 1857, moved

to another site in Stourbridge Road five years ago. But now the old factory and office building has levelled ahead of a plan to build a 82-bed care home on the site.

Herefordshire company Bondcare secured planning permission for the site three years ago but this has now expired.

However ward councillors have received confirmation from the firm saying it has carried out the demolition ahead of reapplying for planning permission.

Belle Vale Councillor Bob James, who

called for action to clear the land, today welcomed the demolition following pressure from residents.

"It was a shame that that factory had to shut but we are so pleased we have got to this stage," he said.

"Demolition is now complete and it looks superb now the land has been cleared and tidied up.

"I'm delighted with the clean up. This is on the gateway to Halesowen and people have been asking for this for a long time and to the firm's credit they have now done this.

"We are now anxiously awaiting the final plans."

Bondcare spokeswoman Melanie Smith said confirmed preparatory work had taken place to hasten the redevelopment plans.

"We plan to develop a high quality care home on this site, providing care services for elderly people," she said.

"Preparation work has commenced on the site and will continue once all the finance for this major project is in place."

James Grove and Sons is the UK's biggest manufacturer of buttons.

Campaign to save town's theatre now snowballing

AROUND 6,000 people have signed up to save Dudley Hippodrome from the bulldozers – as campaigners unveil money-making ideas to help fund the scheme.

Transforming side rooms into rehearsal spaces and a recording studio would bring in crucial income to pay bills, they say. Plans for patrons and businesses to sponsor theatre seats are also being considered. Campaigners have until the end of August to submit a business plan, detailing the cost of transforming the building into a theatre, to Dudley Council.

It will also include proposals to source finance for the works from organisations such as the National Lottery.

The Hippodrome opened in 1938 with Judy Garland among those to grace the stage until it closed due to falling audiences in 1964.

The venue which once hosted entertainment icons Bing Crosby, Laurel and Hardy and Tommy Cooper was used as cabaret nightclub and a bingo hall until it finally closed three years ago.

Friends of Dudley Hippodrome chairman Geoff Fitzpatrick said everyone was working hard to dream up ways to ensure that the theatre's future is sustainable.

"It started out as an adventure but now it is getting down to the nitty-gritty, and we must give details on exactly how the plan could work," he said.

"We have to look at ways that the theatre can make

by Andrew Turton

money. There are 62 rooms in and around the main theatre, and we are looking at all the possible ways these can be used.

"We are keen to bring in different groups and people from around the community, and offering rehearsal space is one way of doing this. There could easily be a recording studio in one of the rooms for hire.

"This way, even when shows are not on, the building is still being used."

The group has held talks with conservation organisation The Theatres Trust to work up ways to present their case to Dudley Council in a few weeks' time. Group members said they held "positive" talks with officials at the authority this week.

Dudley Council has previously said it is considering demolishing the famous theatre to incorporate the land within redevelopment proposals for the Castle Hill area.

Wildlife trails for young

CHILDREN'S activities along wildlife trails at the Clent Hills near Stourbridge will include pond dipping every Tuesday during the summer holidays. The trails cost £1 per child and run from 10am until 3pm.

Families do not need to book and can just drop in at the National Trust stand at Nimmings Wood car park.

Ranger Bob Ayres said: "The activities are a great way for families to explore the outdoors together, get their hands dirty and have fun with nature."



Fundraising family – Kate Dulson and husband Arran with their son Max

A charity treetop challenge

FUNDRAISING friends took on a treetop challenge in memory of a baby girl who died from a rare condition at just two weeks old.

Mother Kate Dulson, of Briery Road, Halesowen, was told 20 weeks into her pregnancy her daughter Phoebe Hope stood just a 50 per cent chance of survival as she had a congenital diaphragmatic hernia (CDH). She died in February.

In tribute to her daughter and to raise awareness of the condition, Mrs Dulson organised a fundraiser with close friends and family involving a daring treetop challenge at Go Ape in Bewdley.

It saw a group of 19 people, including her husband Arran, a civil engineer, scaling the heights of trees, climbing nets, and flying down zip wires over a series of treetop platforms.

Mrs Dulson said: "We realised so few people know of CDH. It's as common as cystic fibrosis so we wanted people to understand it and raise awareness."

The Dulsens, who also have a six-year-old boy Max, have raised £400 with their efforts so far. Max is also taking part in a reading challenge to raise more funds. The cash will go to CDH UK. For more information visit www.cdhuks.co.uk

NEWS in brief

Board game has safety message

A MONOPOLY-STYLE board game has been launched to give youngsters in Dudley tips and advice on staying safe.

The game, called Streetwise, has been developed by Dudley's Community Safety Partnership and the Youth Offending Service.

Youngsters at the Abberley Street Pupil Referral Unit have also helped to create the game.

People working with youngsters in the borough can request a copy of the game via www.dudleysafeandstrong.org

Horse festival is weather victim

AN ANNUAL festival of horses that attracts thousands of visitors to a farm near Bewdley has become the latest victim of the recent heavy rain.

The ninth annual Trimpley Heavy Horse Festival, featuring the rare Suffolk Punch breed, was cancelled. Organiser Mike Clarke said it was a "tough decision" but explained the ground at Holbeache Farm was still too wet for the long grass to be cut. He said: "Until the grass is completely dry we are unable to cut it."

Fire station will stage open day

A FIRE station in Worcester-shire will be holding an open day on August 4.

Firefighters at Redditch will host the annual event from 11am until 3pm.

Rescue equipment and vehicles will be on display at the fire station in Birmingham Road. Visitors will be able to pick up a range of fire, water and road safety advice.

There will also be refreshments.

Advice service wants volunteers

AN ADVICE service for people needing social care support is calling for people receiving direct payments to share their expertise.

Disability in Action, Dudley wants volunteers to work in its peer support service at the Queens Cross Network.

Call 01384 813460 for an informal chat.

Plans for old pub

DEVELOPERS are planning to turn a derelict pub into homes. Should they go ahead The Dry Dock, Windmill End, Netherton will become five apartments.

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NEWS

THE BEST
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RHODES

OUR changing language. What is understood these days by the old request "a pint of best, please?" I used it in a pub this week, expecting a glass of their best bitter. The young, eager waiter presented me with a pint of what was presumably their best-selling lager. One of us is out of touch.

□□□□□□□□

LOUISE Casey who heads the Government's "troubled families" unit, says some problem families have too many children. Yet more facts from the Department of the Bleedin' Obvious.

□□□□□□□□

IN COUNTRYFILE (BBC1), the lithe and lovely Julia Bradbury referred to the "unexpected hills" of Shropshire. This suggests she did about as much homework before visiting Shropshire as some of her BBC colleagues did before the Thames Jubilee Pageant.

Hills are unexpected in Shropshire in much the way that cream teas are unexpected in Devon and Yorkshire pudding takes you entirely by surprise in Ilkley.

□□□□□□□□

THE truly inspirational thing about Bradley Wiggins, which ought to be studied by his hordes of Lycra-clad fans on British roads, is that he managed to win the Tour de France without once jumping a red light, scattering pedestrians on the pavements or coming up the inside lane and resting his sticky hand against your nice clean car.

□□□□□□□□

A PAL has had a new high-security front door installed. It is built around a steel frame and has three internal bolts, two chrome-steel hooks, one lock which can be double-locked with a key and another lock on a keyless catch. It cost a packet and is deeply impressive and probably 100 per cent burglar-proof. Sadly, it's such a faff to lock the damn thing that he tends to leave it open.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Security review at pool following boy's death

The firm which owns a disused quarry where a teenager drowned is now reviewing its security, police said. Augusto Zacarias, who was on holiday from Portugal, died falling into swollen waters at the Marl Hole pool at the back of the Crooked House pub, Himley.

Soldier in sex attack

A TEENAGER was sexually assaulted only yards from his home by a soldier, a court has heard.

Adam Smart forced the girl down on a front garden, put his hand over her mouth, kissed and groped her, Stafford Crown Court heard. The defendant committed an indecent assault.

When she was able to cry out in terror, Smart got up and ran off, said Mr Paul Spratt, prosecuting.

Smart, aged 20, of Edge View Walk, Kinver, was sent to youth custody for 18 months after admitting a charge of sexual assault.

Mr Steven Bailey, defending, said his client had been "fuddled in drink".

Judge Simon Tonking cleared Smart of attempted rape, but told him: "You used some force to get her to the ground."

Augusto, who turned 15 just days before the tragedy, was visiting family from Portugal with his parents, Paulina and Pedro, as well as his young brother, and had been in the country less than three weeks.

Augusto's body was pulled from the water, known as Blue Lagoon, on July 25 following a seven-hour search of the waters.

A spokesman for site owner Wienerberger said their thoughts were with Augusto's family.

Warning

Bosses said the quarry is surrounded by a 6ft-high chain link fence topped with barbed wire, that all gates are locked and that there are warning signs and regular inspections.

West Midlands Police spokeswoman Deb Edmonds said: "The company which owns it are reviewing the security."

The tragedy has left the community reeling.

It is believed Augusto had gone to the quarry with his friends and cousin, a former pupil of High Arcal School.

Artists' work going on display



Artists Derek Groves, front, and Dave Foster will be showing their art

SCENES of wildlife, landscapes and flowers will all feature on more than 100 pieces of art which will be part of an exhibition starting later this month.

The display, which will cover a wide range of subjects will be held at Hurst Green Methodist Church, Narrow Lane, Halesowen.

The display is being staged and will feature work by the Black Country Artists.

Each of the group's 25 members will display at least four pieces at the exhibition.

The display of artwork will be on show from August 13 to 18 from 10am to 5pm.

One of the exhibits will be a painting of a Koi Carp on slate, which was produced by 59-year-old Derrick Groves, of Newbury Lane, Oldbury.

He said: "There is a real variety of work on display this year and something for all tastes."

The Methodist church also runs a variety of clubs and groups which cater for different ages.

Link for museum and zoo is closer

THE LONG-AWAITED £10 million project to link Dudley Zoo and the Black Country Living Museum has moved a step closer after funding was secured for a 1,000 car park for both attractions.

A joint entrance will be built with a link road which is part of a bid to attract one million visitors a year.

Now £600,000 has been allocated from the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership's Growing Places fund for the car park, which forms a major part of the scheme. Up to 480 jobs are expected to be created by the expansion and extra influx of visitors.

Councillor David Sparks, LEP board member and leader of Dudley Council, said: "The allocation of £600,000 of the Growing Places fund will ensure this important project can move forward in the very near future."

"Dudley's Castle Hill site will bring tremendous benefits to the town."

Flats to be built

THREE industrial units in Halesowen will be demolished to make way for a block of 13 apartments.

Developer Turran will flatten the premises in Hagley Road and build a three-storey block. Plans for one and two bedroom flats, were approved.

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Jobs fair proves a big draw

HUNDREDS of job seekers flocked to a recruitment fair for advice on jobs and careers.

School leavers and college students attended the event organised by Halesowen and Rowley Regis MP James Morris.

But mature residents keen to secure employment after finding themselves out of work during the financial downturn also went along to last week's fair, which was held at St Michael's Church of England High School, Curral Road, Rowley Regis, hoping to be recruited.

Car giant Jaguar Land Rover joined others including bus company National Express West Midlands, metalworks group Hagley Industries of Smethwick and the Army in offering opportunities.

JLR which announced 1,100 new jobs at its Castle Bromwich factory in Birmingham, attended the event to promote its apprenticeship scheme.

Mr Morris said the event had been designed to give job seekers of all ages an opportunity. He added, addressing youth unemployment and those people leaving school is vital.

Inquest adjourns

AN INQUEST was opened and adjourned on a 78-year-old cyclist who died after being hit by a lorry in Kidderminster.

The hearing heard Arthur William Bough, of Woodward Road, Kidderminster, died after the accident.

£500,000 church funding fraudster facing jail term



Stephen Methuen

THE TREASURER of a church and religious charity was today facing jail after he admitted defrauding them of more than £500,000.

Professional accountant Stephen Methuen acted as treasurer for both Amblecote Christian Centre, of which he was a member, and the Christian International Relief Mission, in Stourbridge.

But, over a six-year period, he embezzled the evangelical church out of an estimated £400,000 and the charity of more than £100,000. Methuen, aged 57, of Smallman Close, Wordsley, admitted 16 charges of fraud when he appeared at Wolverhampton Crown Court. Six charges alleged he falsified documents at Amblecote Christian Centre, based in Brettell Lane, to conceal payments being made to his personal and business accounts between 2003 and 2009.

A further six charges related to the falsification by him of documents for the Christian International Relief Mission, also between 2003 and 2009, to conceal payments to him.

He also admitted a further four charges relating to when, as treasurer of the Christian Centre, he cheated HM Revenue and Customs by filing gift aid repayment claims which overstated the total charitable donations between 2005 and 2009.

Sentencing was adjourned until September 10 for reports and Methuen was granted bail. Judge Michael Dudley warned him he would also face proceedings to recover money he pocketed.

During the hearing last Thursday Judge Dudley told Methuen: "A prison sentence is likely."

Miss Rona Campbell, prosecuting, said: "This is a case of some age and it has taken some time for this hearing to take place."

She added the defence had only recently given the prosecution a document explaining the basis upon which the offences were admitted.

If the prosecution, after examining the document, contests the figures provided by the defence lawyers there may need to be a further hearing, she said.



Amblecote Christian Centre in Stourbridge

We were naive – pastor

THE LEADER of the congregation whose funds were stripped of hundreds of thousands of pounds by Stephen Methuen says he abused the "naive trust" the church placed in him.

Church members were shocked when it was revealed that Methuen, who showed no signs of living the high life, had swindled them out of money they had donated or raised. Methuen, a professional accountant, became a member of Amblecote Christian Centre in Stourbridge in 1993 and began to support it as a volunteer.

As leaders knew of his expertise in finances, he became volunteer treasurer in 1995 – a position he held until Senior Pastor Adrian Lowe uncovered irregularities in the church accounts in April 2009.

Methuen, who was taken to the police station by Mr Lowe after admitting he embez-

zled the funds, was then asked to resign.

The offences took place between 2003 and 2009 and included a substantial amount defrauded from the taxman through overstated gift aid repayment claims, which he pocketed.

Mr Lowe, who became the senior pastor in 2005, was carrying out an assessment of whether the church had enough funds to extend its outreach charity work, when he uncovered the fraud.

"It's a very sad day," said Mr Lowe. "Not only was Steve trusted by the congregation as a volunteer but he was also a personal friend. He occupied a position of absolute trust which was abused. In all honesty, and with the benefit of hindsight, we placed naive trust in Steve and, obviously in retrospect, should not have been so trusting where money was involved."

NEWS in brief

180 are ready to walk for hospice

MORE than 180 walkers have signed up to take part in the third Waterways Walk in Worcestershire.

The fundraiser on August 19 is for St Richard's Hospice, Worcester.

Last year, 300 walkers took part and raised more than £29,000 for the hospice.

Event organisers hope the walk will prove just as popular this year.

Walkers have the choice of a 21-mile circular route or a shorter 10-mile option.

Call 01905 763963.

Man bound over to keep the peace

A 20-YEAR-OLD man has been bound over to keep the peace and warned not to threaten or verbally abuse his mother or sister.

Adam Nicholls, of Elmhurst Drive, Kingswinford, admitted causing a breach of the peace and Dudley magistrates bound him over for £100.

Mr Mark Cooper, prosecuting, said Nicholls's sister, Becky, called police because of his behaviour.

Healthy living aid for older people

INFORMATION on healthy living, finances, benefits and local services for older people will be available in Kidderminster. The Showcase of Services for Older People runs from 10am to 2pm on August 2 at the town hall.

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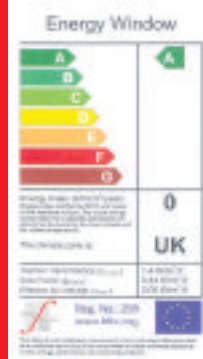
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NEWS

Exhibition is devoted to pioneer teacher Marion

AN EXHIBITION devoted to an internationally acclaimed art teacher, who changed the way handwriting and drawing was taught in schools, is on display at Dudley Museum and Art Gallery.

Marion Richardson, who taught at the Dudley Girls High School between 1912 to 1923, is known around the globe for her revolutionary classroom techniques. Now some of her famous teaching materials are being displayed on the walls along with work and paintings by pupils.

Her groundbreaking work saw schools move away from tedious copying to encouraging pupils to use their imagination in lessons.

The exhibition features impressive watercolour paintings done by her pupils.

There are also examples of exercise books, which illustrate her creative writing technique originally published by Richardson in 1935, as well as one of her watercolours.

Her innovative approach included the use of a word pictures system, where she would describe a scene for her pupils to paint based solely on her instruction.

Miss Richardson was born in Kent and trained at Birmingham Municipal School of Arts and Crafts between 1908 and 1912.

She was a pupil teacher at Moseley Art School before taking up her post at Dudley Girls High School.

She died in November 1946 and was buried at St John's Church in Kates Hill.

National sports scheme

Dudley's sporting groups are being invited to take part in a national initiative.

Set up as part of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, it is hoped the scheme will encourage people to share information and do more sport.

Dudley Council wants clubs in the borough to include theirs by visiting the site www.joininuk.org



Exhibitions officer Adrian Durkin with Marion Richardson's handwriting books



One of Marion Richardson's books



Marion Richardson

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LETTERS

Some things never really change

I ALWAYS look forward to Carl Chinn's walks down memory lane in the E&S and read July 26 offering with the usual relish.

Some things apparently never change. Professor Chinn explained to us the better off in bygone days were often reluctant to help the impoverished because they were convinced that poverty was a result of idleness rather than social structure, economic factors and so on.

The same could be said today but there is a crucial difference. By and large, despite their misgivings, the wealthy were either swayed by a faith

which proclaimed their miserly instincts were in fact wrong or else they were persuaded by a growing and ever more powerful Labour movement that it was change or perish, run a fair business and treat your staff with respect or don't run a business at all.

Today we have come full circle. Many of the well-to-do have persuaded themselves there is no "higher authority" to answer to and the Labour movement has probably less power than it did 100 years ago.

Those miserly instincts are not only popular but regarded as positively virtuous in some circles including most of

the written media and most of HM Government front bench.

The way out of poverty we are told is to ensure the impoverished have less and therefore must work. In reality of course it is quicker, easier and far more rewarding to respond to things like benefit cuts by getting into petty crime, drug dealing, prostitution.

If work is to pay then cut benefits don't raise wages seems to be the message.

It is a flawed message.

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Miliband's speech on migration stirs debate

ED MILIBAND'S June 22 speech on immigration continues to stir debate, much of it dragging in the separate issue of racism. Race was a factor in the 1960s and 70s debates about immigration.

Now, thanks to the EU policy of the free movement of labour, immigration is largely white people from Eastern Europe moving here, competing for low-paid jobs. Employers back this because an increase in the supply of labour cuts its price.

Last year, 589,000 people came to Britain, the vast majority from the EU. Mr Miliband said, "Britain must control its borders." Fine - but he then said, "we cannot set the numbers coming in from the rest of the EU."

The EU stops us having any control over immigration from the EU.

WILL PODMORE
London

LETTERS to the Editor

POST

Halesowen Chronicle,
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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

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Government going back on its issues

NOT A month has gone by since the Prime Minister's speech on the 25th June 2012 in Kent, and already his government is reneging on the issues of the elderly and frail, the disabled.

His government should be well aware of the problems these groups face in life. So what do they do? They target those people first. The proposed closure of 54 'Remploy' factories is despicable to say the least. Expecting the disabled to find employment elsewhere, where does the government expect them to find work suited to their disabilities, when the jobs they are quite capable of doing, all under one roof, are taken away from them?

He says in his speech - and I quote, 'he knows how much help genuinely disabled people need'. Looks like it when he takes the bread and butter out of their mouths. Then we have the "elderly and frail".

This government knows no bounds in targeting those who are elderly and frail and those who are disabled while looking after the bankers and the 'filthy rich'.

MRS P A JORDAN - PRESS OFFICER WMPC
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Report all who drive while on mobiles

JUST a word to the person who nearly mowed down my daughter on Gospel End Road, Sedgley, last week, whilst walking her dog.

She was on the footpath at the time, and that is exactly where he ended up, and why? Because he was texting!

He was shocked to find himself on the pavement instead of on the road, and my daughter was left too shaken to get his registration number.

I hope you are reading this, and it will prick your conscience, but I doubt it, along with all the other ever-increasing number of law breakers who persist on using mobiles while driving.

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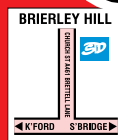
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NEWS

Festival set to celebrate 400 years of glass skills

A DUDLEY town is all ready to celebrate its 400-year history of glassmaking with a major festival.

The International Festival of Glass will return to Stourbridge from August 24-27 featuring exhibitions, workshops and entertainment.

Artists and glass enthusiasts from across the globe are expected at the event, which is held every two years and is the largest festival of its kind to be held in the UK. More than 13,000 people attended in 2010.

Organisers now say they are expecting even larger crowds this time.

This year's event is to be even more special as it will be a celebration of 400 years of glassmaking in the town.

Events and activities will be held at the Ruskin Glass Centre, Amblecote, Broadfield House Glass Museum, Kingswinford, and Wordsley's Red House Glass Cone.

The centrepiece of the festival will be British Glass Biennale, an exhibition showcasing the best in contemporary glassmaking. It will feature 101 pieces by 71 artists.

It will include works by Brierley Hill artist Robyn Smith and Allister Malcolm, of Kingswinford.

The biennale will be held in the Ruskin Glass Centre and pieces will remain on display until September 15.

Broadfield House will be the venue for the Back to the Future exhibition. Artists have taken inspiration from existing collections to create new works.

Other events will include a challenge where artists and architects transform waste glass into art. Visitors will be asked to vote for their favourite on August 25.

Solar firm wins award

A KIDDERMINSTER solar energy company has won an award in the construction industry. Eco2Solar of Hoo Farm Industrial Estate, won its accolade for small and medium enterprises. It came at the West Midlands Constructing Excellence Awards, held at the International Convention Centre.

No board-om at event



Pro skater Jake Smith from Edgbaston, watched by children including far right, Katrina Rogers, aged 11, from Wollaston and Laura Crofts, 10, from Enville

HIGH-FLYING stunts wowed youngsters eager to learn top skateboarding tricks.

Members of the Rubicon Skateboard School, Kinver taught around 80 children new skills.

The village has its own skate park paid for through grants and funding from the National Lottery and Play-builder Fund.

Instructors were on hand to show moves and stunts on skateboards, bikes and scooters. The day was

organised by Kinver Action group. Organiser Margaret Rogers, who also serves on Kinver Parish Council, said: "It has been a wonderful day and we also clicked for the weather which was even better."

"The children have been so well behaved and have hopefully really enjoyed themselves. It was good to get to meet them all."

Organisers hope to hold a follow up hold another event later in the summer.

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NEWS

Three police volunteers win prestigious awards



Centre: District officer James Horton with his Chief Constable Award, with, left, Leslie Mellor and Melvyn Franklin

THREE police volunteers have been presented with prestigious awards for their dedication to serving communities across the Dudley borough.

Head of Dudley Borough Special Constabulary James Horton was among those honoured for continuing to give his time to the force despite battling cancer.

Mr Horton, aged 34, was diagnosed with Non-Hodgkins lymphoma last year and had to undergo regular chemotherapy sessions.

But throughout he continued his role in heading the special constabulary which has 65 volunteers across the borough.

Mr Horton, who lives in Birmingham, was presented with the Chief Constable Award for Outstanding Contribution at a ceremony in the city earlier this month.

Mr Horton, who is now in part remission, has been head of the division since 2002. He joined after a recruitment event in Halesowen and was promoted to supervisor at Dudley in 2001 before taking over his present position. He said: "I am very proud to have received the award. It is something I love to do."

Also receiving awards were special constables Melvyn Franklin, 59, of Dudley, and Les Mellor, 65, of Brierley Hill, who were presented with accolades for long service.

Mr Franklin was honoured for his 29 years of voluntary service – he is the longest serving special constable in the borough.

Mr Franklin, known as Mel, joined the special constabulary in 1983 and has been based at Brierley Hill, Dudley and Halesowen before returning to Dudley in 2010.

Special Constable Les Mellor, based at Kingswinford was awarded a medal for 19 years service.

Plan for old school house

A FORMER school house will be converted into four apartments under new plans. Proposals for the grade II listed building in Wolverhampton Street have been lodged with Dudley Council.



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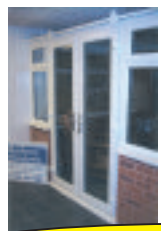
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Chris Tarrant arriving at Palmers Cross School by helicopter



The poster for the film which was made in 1965



A scene for the film as the 'Conway' aircraft sets off at Pendeford Airport

How film put region's own 'Lakes' in frame

by Alec Brew

THE Palmer's Cross area of Wolverhampton is sometimes called the Lake District, as all the roads are named after the lakes, Windermere Road, Coniston Road, Derwent Road etc.

In 1956 Ealing Studios made a film in Wolverhampton called The Man in the Sky. It starred Jack Hawkins as a test pilot for a fictitious aircraft company called Conway Aircraft.

It was filmed entirely on location in and around Pendeford Airport, and the 'home' of Jack Hawkins in the film was 3 Derwent Road. Many scenes were filmed there, inside and out, with Elizabeth Sellars, the actress who played his wife.

The film centred around him test flying a new 'Conway' aircraft, which was actually a Bristol Freighter, and having an engine fire.

Many famous British character actors were also in the film, including

Donald Pleasance and Lionel Jeffries, and they watched as Hawkins 'flew' the aircraft around to burn off fuel, before making a successful landing, and then going home to his 'wife' in Derwent Road, who had been tipped off about the drama, and gave him a good scolding for putting his life at risk.

Powerful

A few years later, just round the corner in Grasmere Close, a real pilot and aircraft engineer, Keith Sedgewick, decided to build himself an aircraft in his garage.

He chose a single seat Currie Wot biplane, but fitted a more powerful engine than was usual for the type, and made other changes to the basic design, so that he renamed it a Super Wot.

It was completed in 1969, and he

then test flew it at Halfpenny Green airfield, from where he was to fly it for many years.

Actual flying came to the 'Lake District' a few years later when Chris Tarrant, then of Tiswas fame, now more widely known because of the television programme Who Wants to be a Millionaire, came to Palmers Cross School to present the prizes at the school fete.

With a typical showbusiness flourish he landed on the playing field in a small Brantly B2 helicopter.

The man in the Sky is not a very good film, it's one of Jack Hawkins more obscure efforts, made after his successes in Zulu and The Cruel Sea, but it does give fascinating glimpses of parts of Wolverhampton.

The film can be found on DVD, and its fascinating to watch it, if only to try and recognise all the locations, including Derwent Road.



Jack Hawkins talking to Charles Helliwell, the real pilot of the aircraft, who had taxied into a stream



Keith Sedgewick in the cockpit of his aircraft on his drive in Grasmere Close in 1969



No.3 Derwent Road today, looking very different to when it was the 'home' of Jack Hawkins

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NEWS

Gracie's design flagged up as region's winner

AN EYE-CATCHING design created by a Dudley youngster is to become the official flag of the Black Country and will be flown during the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Youngsters from across the region were challenged to create a design for the flag to be entered into the official UK Flag Registry. The design from 11-year-old Gracie Sheppard took the top honour after nearly 1,500 votes were cast by the public.

It features a chain running across a black, red and white background. The white section is in the shape of Wordsley's Red House Glass Cone acknowledging the region's glassmaking heritage. Gracie, who attends Redhill Primary School, Stourbridge, said she was delighted her design had been chosen.

It will now be made into a flag which will be flown at Dudley's Black Country Living Museum. One will also be made for her school to fly.

The museum launched the competition after the Parliamentary Flags and Heraldry Committee encouraged communities to develop their own.

Fellow Redhill pupils Aimee Potter and Marrie Bond were runners-up in the competition.

Gracie was awarded £200 and a year's free pass to the museum.

Traditional crafts courses

TRADITIONAL crafts are on offer at an outdoor centre near Stourport.

Bishops Wood Centre, Crossway Green, is offering courses next week.

A bushcraft course runs on August 10 from 9am until 4pm. There is a fee and places should be booked on 01299 250513 or email bishopswoodcentre@worcestershire.gov.uk.

Village books in a box

THEY say the best things come in small packages.

And that is certainly true for the Belbroughton Book Exchange near Stourbridge.

Despite being one of the smallest libraries in the world, set up in an old red telephone box, it is a honey pot for the village's avid readers.

The library is kept stocked up as villagers borrow books and replace them with their own used ones.

"It's self-perpetuating," said Ruth Perry, of High Street, Belbroughton, who runs the exchange with the help of neighbours and fellow members of the village history society.

When members found out the phone kiosk in High Street on the corner of Pinchers Close was going to be removed by BT last year, they set about finding a way of saving it.

"The kiosk is very nice street furniture, although it was getting dilapidated and was non-commissioned, with none of its internal organs left inside," said, retired teacher Mrs Perry, aged 66.

"We had to have an authorised body to take it over so Belbroughton Parish Council became our underwriter and the history society purchased it from BT for a nominal £1.

"BT painted it and even put the gold crowns back on, because they had worn off. We wanted it to be



The telephone box book exchange which is a hit in Belbroughton

useful, rather than decorative, and mused over what we could use it for.

"We'd heard of other places where phone boxes had children's paintings in - but hit upon the idea of turning it into a library for the village. I'm obsessed about children reading and I'm glad to see so many young people in the village using our library."

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NEWS

Campaigners enjoy home celebration



Left to right, campaigners Poppy Scott, Phil Vanes, Mac Scott MBE and Rita Vanes, celebrating with residents at Kingswinford's New Bradley Hall care home

IT WAS three cheers for campaigners who celebrated a reprieve for a closure-threatened care home with a garden party.

Residents thanked all those who had fought for the future of New Bradley Hall, Kingswinford, during the event.

Campaign leaders Mac Scott MBE and Phil Vanes gave heartfelt speeches to those gathered inside large marquees. Champagne corks popped as glasses of bubbly and slices of cake were handed out to friends and families at the event.

Mr Scott, whose mother-in-law Irene Claridge lives at the home, said: "It is a wonderful occasion and we are just thankful to have reached this day, it's marvellous."

Resident, Harry Griffiths, a 79-year-old retired lorry driver originally from Lye, added: "We are so pleased to be here celebrating, it's a great day."

Jones joins up

TV AND radio presenter Aled Jones will join the Gentlemen Songsters Male Voice Choir on September 22 at Dudley Concert Hall.

The child star has gone on to present Songs of Praise and a BBC Radio2 show. Tickets are available on 01384 838863.

Firm in move

A ROLLER shutter firm has moved to new premises in West Bromwich after its previous site became rundown.

Portico Products has moved to Union Park.

General manager Karl Williams said the move had allowed the firm to redesign its storage facilities.

Farmers market to be launched in town

A NEW farmers' market will be launched in Kidderminster on August 10.

Stalls will be lined up outside the entrance to the Swan Centre, at the bottom of the High Street between 9am and 4.30pm. Markets will be held every second Friday of the month.

It has been organised by Wyre Forest District Council in partnership with the Worcestershire Farmers Market Group.

Council leader Councillor John Campion said: "Farmers' Markets are a great opportunity for people to get a true taste of the county they live in. They are about local growers and farmers selling their goods directly to the public. We are delighted to be able to offer this in Kidderminster. We hope it will attract shoppers into our town centre and help the economic prosperity of our rural communities too."

Town centre manager Peter Michael said: "The Worcestershire Farmers' Market Partnership has more than 12 years experience and ensure excellent stalls."

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NEWS

Views on revamp wanted

RESIDENTS can give their views on designs for a scheme to revamp a Black Country town.

The plans for the Windmill Hill area of Cradley include new benches, public artwork and bus shelters to make the streets more attractive to shoppers.

An online questionnaire has been launched by Dudley Council and the plans will be on display at Cradley Library until August 24.

Designs, also including interpretation panels with information about the area's, past were unveiled at a consultation event.

A map has been drawn up showing where extra trees would be planted.

A windmill sculpture is also proposed by the junction with Chapel House Lane while wall murals would be installed near Colley Lane, Maple Tree Lane and Colley Orchard.

Silhouette sculptures and seats would be created in a 'pocket park' in front of Providence Methodist Church.

New bins and bus shelters along Windmill Hill are also proposed.

Church talk

A TALK on the churches of Staffordshire will take place in Stourbridge. Stourbridge Historical Society is holding the event in the Ambicote Room, Stourbridge Town Hall on September 20 at 7.30pm. Call 01384 274014.

Concern over tree growing from side of historic cone

A SMALL tree growing out of the side of Dudley's Red House Glass Cone is sparking fears it may damage the historic building if action is not taken. A clump of branches is now sprouting from brickwork at the cone in Wordsley. Calls have been made for Dudley Council to remove the plant so it cannot pose a risk to the building – one of the last of its kind in the world.

2,300 sign for hospital

MORE than 2,300 people signed a petition against the closure of Kidderminster Hospital in just four hours as campaigners took to the streets.

Members of the Kidderminster Hospital Alliance which is fighting plans to overhaul hospital services in Worcestershire held a day of action in the town centre. Health chiefs are reviewing the county's three main hospitals and six 'models of care' have been drawn up including two which threaten the Kidderminster site with closure or downgrading.

The campaign group wants services to be protected and is asking NHS bosses to consider using Kidderminster Hospital more to help relieve the pressure on the Alexandra in Redditch and the Worcestershire Royal in Worcester which both have busy accident and emergency departments.

Stephen Brown, secretary for the Kidderminster Hospital Alliance, said 2,335 signatures were collected between 10am and 2pm on Saturday. He described it as a "magnificent result" and said it demonstrated "the people of Wyre Forest care about their hospital, care about their NHS, and want to keep the hospital and retain its services".

Saplings can be seen half way up on one side of the cone in Wordsley High Street, and another is now growing on a lower section of the building closer to the entrance.

A councillor said it was vital the work was carried out before the International Festival of Glass takes place at the end of August, which will see visitors from across the globe coming to the attraction.

It is not the first time action has been needed to remove a tree growing from the cone's brickwork.

In 2008, a painstaking operation was carried out to remove a sapling which had started to emerge from the cone. A cherry picker had to be used so workers could remove each branch individually to ensure no damage was caused. Wordsley councillor John Jones said: "The concern is the tree could cause damage to the cone if it's not removed as soon as possible."

Dudley Councillor Tracy Wood said: "We are speaking to English Heritage to get advice and permissions associated with a scheduled ancient monument. It is difficult to completely protect buildings from this."

School planning fencing

A DUDLEY primary school wants to put up gating and high fencing to improve security.

Newfield Park Primary School, Whittingham Road, Halesowen, has applied for planning permission for the gate and eight feet high fencing. Dudley Council will decide later this month.

Olympic Games inspire art



Joshua and Imogen Lemm, Claudia Lee, India-Leigh Goodings, Max Lee and Rio-Sienna Goodings visit attraction Red House Glass Cone

FAMILIES made Olympic-inspired figures as part of a summer of activities in Dudley.

Sculptor Sarah Canning led the sessions at the Red House Glass Cone, Stourbridge.

She showed how to create shapes from Modroc, a form of plaster used in casts.

They made decorative masks and bronze-coloured figures of athletes in action. Sarah, who has had a studio at the cone for four years, said she was impressed by her students' skills.

She added: "I really enjoy doing things like this, every day is something new."

She is also holding Clay Days every Thursday, where visitors can create a range of artwork including bird feeders, piggy banks and pencil pots. While Fabric Fridays will give people the chance to decorate T-shirts, bags or pencil cases.

NEWS

in brief

School takes a big step forward

A PRIMARY school has taken a big step towards getting out of special measures following a positive report from education watchdogs.

Blanford Mere Primary School, Kingswinford received a visit from Ofsted for the first time since a report was published judging the school to be inadequate.

In a new report, Roy Bowers said the headteacher and senior team had worked with 'energy and determination' to address issues raised.

Leisurely strolls along the canal

A GUIDED walk along Stourbridge Canal will take place later this month.

Jewels on the Cut is a leisurely stroll along the towpath that examines the local industries, particularly glass-making.

The walk will take place at August 27 from the Bonded Warehouse, in Canal Street, and starts at 9.45am. It finishes at the Red House Glass Cone at about noon. Call 01384 812745.

Signs approved

SUPERMARKET bosses have been granted permission to install new signs at a store in Stourbridge.

Tesco Express in Hagley Road had submitted proposals for the lit and unlit signs to Dudley Council.

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NEWS

Thousands of new jobs as big names expanding

Bird's eye view for all



Falconer Andy Plant with Peanut the owl with carer Hannah Steele and resident Marjorie Pimlott

A GOLDEN eagle and a barn owl were among the birds of prey to make a flying visit to a care home near Kidderminster.

Residents at Westley Court Care Home, Cookley, were given a close up view of the birds.

The birds, which also included a Harris hawk and a tawny owl, were

brought in by volunteers from The Falconry Centre, Hagley.

Activities co-ordinator Nicole Hoitink said the residents had all enjoyed the visit. "It's a well-known fact that contact with animals brings health benefits such as helping to lower blood pressure," she said.

THOUSANDS of new jobs have been revealed as Jaguar Land Rover announced 1,100 posts will be created in the West Midlands and BT is to open four new call centres.

The luxury car maker is boosting its workforce with the expansion of its Castle Bromwich factory in Birmingham.

BT will have created 2,000 new jobs by the end of the year as it expands its fibre broadband network and opens new call centres.

One of the four new centres in West Bromwich has already opened, creating 300 posts. The jobs at the Castle Bromwich plant will support the launch of new Jaguar models, including the XF Sportbrake.

It comes as work is under way to build a £355 million engine plant at the i54 business park in Wolverhampton, which will provide 750 jobs, with the potential for more through supply chain companies.

Business Secretary Vince Cable hailed the expansion as "fantastic news for Castle Bromwich". He added: "This expansion is a clear demonstration of JLR's continuing commitment and investment in the UK."

The XF, XK and XJ Jaguar models are made at Castle Bromwich, with around 80 per cent of production exported to more than 100 markets worldwide.

BT said fibre optic broadband had been connected to more than two million homes and business in the last three months.

Chief executive Ian Livingston said profits before tax for the last quarter were up.

Route to close for Tesco

A ROAD in Stourbridge town centre will be shut as work on a new Tesco superstore moves forward.

New Street will be closed from August 28. Vehicles can enter and exit the area via the new Bell Street junction. The store will be built on the former Crown Centre site.

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What the relatives say



www.poplars-nursinghome.co.uk

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'She enjoyed her day and it has helped us to see that she has settled in so well.'

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'WORDS cannot express how grateful we are that you took great care of our nan for the last three years of her life. We will be eternally grateful.'

University links

THE Poplars Nursing Home maintains strong links with Birmingham City University. Students regularly take placements at the home. After a six-week placement, one student wrote: "I have learned so much from everyone and the residents have been amazing. You do a spectacular job."

WHEN Eric was discharged from hospital into a nursing home the prospects were bleak.

The 71-year-old former steelworker was in constant agony after a skin graft to help heal an ulcerated leg began to break down.

And the situation was compounded by problems on the skin harvest site and gangrene in both his feet. "I was a mess. There was not a day I did not cry. I was in pain, even though I was on high doses of morphine," he says.

Today, after 18 months of diligent care by the staff at Poplars Nursing Home in Smethwick, Eric is starting to make plans to return to live with his wife Linda in their Harborne home. He is living proof of the consummate nursing skill which is delivered daily at the home in South Road.

"I had circulation problems, a bad ulcer and I ended up in the City Hospital. I was never without pain, but now I have no pain at all really. Occasionally I still get pain but I only have to take paracetamol, he adds. Eric is quick to show how he can now manage his own physiotherapy regime, sitting on the bed and pulling his feet towards his waist.

"You see this (he reaches for his leg). I couldn't do this before and all I want now is to get back home. I need some adaptations, but I can manage my wheelchair and transfer into bed on my own. The council says I'm entitled to a grant to get the work done and I'm waiting hear where we are on that."

Poplars manager Gill Williams says his clinical success story is because of the home's excellent multi-disciplinary approach and its close working relationship with doctors, physiotherapists and nutritionist. "Eric is remarkable. He was very, very poorly



Manager Gill Williams



One of the Poplars' bedrooms, with profiling bed and the dining area



Nursing Eric – and the power of care

when he first came to us but with care diligence, nursing skill and first-class support from the home's doctor, he is now planning to go home.

Inspections

"This is an unusual, but very happy outcome for our home. In ten years I have known only two people return to the community. It's nothing short of joyous.

"He has shown real courage and determination and worked with us to achieve these goals. What's more, he still has legs and feet," adds Gill.

Poplars has performed excellently during Care Quality Commission inspections and under the old auditing system consistently achieved the top three-

star ratings. The 35-bed home prides itself on its family-centric ethos and encourages relatives to be involved in the care planning and evaluation of their loved-ones. It vigorously embraces a dietary well-being programme, caters for all nutritional needs and continues to enjoy a top kitchen work practices rating by Environmental Health inspectors.

"For many people, this is their last home so it needs to be special. Our aims are simple: To make residents' time with us comfortable and happy, to enhance their life quality, to promote independence, to maintain privacy and dignity and along the way share a generous amount of laughter and love," adds Gill.

Are you looking for excellence in residential nursing care for a loved one? Call Poplars on 0121 558 0962

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NEWS

Lives put in danger as thieves steal gas pipes

LIVES were put at risk by thieves who caused a gas leak when they stole copper piping from outside flats in a village near Kidderminster.

Fire service chiefs said thieves stealing the gas pipeworks had put residents in danger. Police and the fire service were alerted to the homes in Hartlebury by a concerned resident.

Philip Farrer, aged 60, found gas escaping from the sawn-off pipes outside the back of his top-storey flat in Woodbury Close, at about 5am on Monday.

The pensioner alerted emergency services which turned off the gas supply and made the block of flats safe. Mr Farrer said he heard a noise outside and went to investigate.

"The gas was everywhere - the people who did this did not care at all about anyone living here. They just come round, see some metal and take it," he added.

"The problem is, with the place being so empty, we are easy-pickings here."

The three blocks of housing consist of nearly 50 flats but many are empty as Festival Housing prepares to demolish the site for a £4 million housing scheme.

Festival Housing spokesman Cathy Spence said: "We hope the last remaining residents move out by the end of next month, but this obviously depends partly on them accepting new accommodation."

A man in his 30s from Kidderminster was arrested on suspicion of theft and driving while disqualified.

He has been bailed.

Six deny drug conspiracy

SIX MEN will stand trial after they denied a charge of conspiracy to supply cocaine.

The men, five from the Black Country and one from Worcester, pleaded not guilty at Wolverhampton Crown Court. They will stand trial at Stoke Crown Court. It follows a raid at an address in Dennis Hall Road, Ambecote, on March 8 this year.

Fancy dress fundraiser



Front, Maddy Box-Poole with uncle David Rose with Pink Panther Kerri Pickett and Scooby Doo Hannah Bridgewater, back left to right, Lorraine Cooper, Maddy's sister Isobel, Councillor Qadar Zada, David's daughter Jordan Rose, and aunt Angela Bekker

FUNDRAISERS donned fancy dress at a Dudley supermarket to help raise cash for a sick girl.

Activities were organised by staff at Asda, Netherton, after hearing the plight of five-year-old Maddy Box-Poole from Tividale.

She was joined by her uncle David Rose to meet the fundraisers during the event.

Crews from Cradley Heath fire station held a sponsored car wash while staff manned cake stalls.

Organiser Lorraine Cooper, who works at the store in Saltwells Road, devised the plan after meeting Maddy and her family.

"The customers have been brilliant and given us such great support and we have had a very successful day," she said.

Maddy suffers from Batten Disease, a degenerative disorder of the nervous system. Cash raised will help pay for her family to take her for treatment in America.

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NEWS

Thief smashed gates to steal skipload of metal

Cabbage patch comeback



Leah Tighe, aged 10, of Kingswinford, with the relaunched Cabbage Patch Kids

CABBAGE Patch Kids – the toys which were a global sensation in the 80s – are making a comeback.

The dolls are predicted to be one of this year's must-have Christmas gifts. They have been given a 21st century makeover to appeal to new generations of youngsters but their

cute faces which made them so popular almost 30 years ago still remain. Alan Caswell, who runs the Arcade Toyshop in Dudley, said he has already sold 30 since they were relaunched around three weeks ago.

He will be taking delivery of further batches in October.

A thief smashed through the gates of a Dudley firm to steal £1,700 of scrap metal, a court heard.

Philip Dicken was already banned from driving when he drove a truck and raided Dudley Safes Ltd in Lower Gornal at about 8.30pm when it was closed. The 49-year-old, who is a recovering heroin addict, was caught by police just 20 yards from the entrance after struggling to get away with the haul, Dudley Magistrates Court was told.

Mrs Jayne Yeomans, prosecuting, said Dicken was seen on CCTV reversing the MAN skip loader through gates at the company, which makes safes and storage units.

She added: "He caused damage of about £500 to the gates. He was seen to load a blue skip on to the lorry and then leave the premises."

When police arrived on July 11 they discovered Dicken was disqualified from driving and that the vehicle had no MOT. The scrap was recovered and given back to the firm after Dicken was arrested.

Mrs Dawn Foxall, defending, said Dicken was on a course of methadone and there had been "changes in his life" in recent months.

Dicken, of Johnson Street, Bilston, pleaded guilty to theft, using a motor vehicle without insurance and a test certificate, driving while disqualified and criminal damage. He was bailed and the case was adjourned for a pre-sentence report.

Donation for Sea Scouts

SEA scouts in Kidderminster can fix two crumbling window frames after a councillor donated £500.

New windows will be fitted at the First Kidderminster Sea Scouts base in Hoo Road. Ward councillor John Aston handed over half of his Community Leadership Fund. Scout master Pete Williams welcomed the donation.

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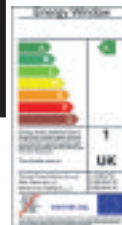
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NEWS

Superbug incidents at hospital down by 60pc

THE number of cases of superbug c.diff reported at Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital has fallen by 60 per cent, new figures claim.

Bosses have bought two hydrogen peroxide vapour machines, also called fogging machines, to help reduce the spread of infections at a cost of £69,000.

NHS regulator Monitor has now downgraded the hospital trust's risk rating from amber-red to amber-green following the drop in cases.

The number has fallen from 38 in the first quarter of the 2011/12 financial year to 14 in the first quarter of 2012/13.

There have been no cases of deadly superbug MRSA in the year from June 2011 to June 2012.

Chief executive Paula Clark said: "We are very pleased with the efforts of staff helping to protect our patients from infection, and that this is reflected in Monitor changing our rating from amber-red to amber-green."

"Helping us to reduce cases of infection in hospital has been the purchase of two hydrogen peroxide vapour machines, also called fogging machines, which decontaminate rooms after episodes of C-diff."

The hospital had been given an amber-red rating by Monitor, the independent regulator of Foundation Trusts last year after 99 cases of C-diff were logged between April and December 2011.

Monitor classifies each NHS trust as one of four risk ratings - green, amber-green, amber-red, and red.

School planning fencing

A DUDLEY primary school wants to put up gating and high fencing to improve security. Newfield Park Primary School, Whittingham Road, Halesowen, has applied for planning permission for the gate and eight feet high fencing. Dudley Council will decide later this month.

Jean leads celebration



Organist Jean Martyn leads the celebrations at Gig Mill Methodist Church

BRITAIN'S Got Talent star Jean Martyn led a congregation in a concert to mark a milestone for a church.

It was a packed house at Gig Mill Methodist Church, Norton, Stourbridge. The church in Glebe Lane, is celebrating its 80th anniversary this year with church members planning a series of events.

Mrs Martyn, from Brewdow, who won fame on the TV talent show, kickstarted the celebrations by

playing pop songs, hymns and jazz tunes.

One of the event organisers Jane Baxter said everyone was thrilled with Jean's performance and enjoyed meeting her on the night.

"It was very nice to have her here. This is a really friendly church which is very welcoming in a true Methodist style," she added.

Members had also created a floral display of historic moments over 80 years.

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Young actors enjoy TV stardom as show's a hit

TWO YOUNG actors are hoping stardom beckons as their debut TV show attracts millions of viewers and rave reviews.

More than three million people have been gripped by Line of Duty, the tense tale of a top detective who gets drawn into a world of corruption.

The five-part drama, which finished last week, has pulled in some of BBC2's highest viewing figures of the past decade and is already being tipped to win a host of awards.

Gregory Piper, aged 14 and Jordyn-Eve Davis-Greene, 12, have become the talk of their schools since the show started. They have even been stopped in the street by fans of the Birmingham-made show.

Many of the scenes were filmed in areas of Birmingham such as Nechells, and the fictional police station is based in the city's Broad Street.

Windsor High pupil Gregory, of Haden Close, Dudley, plays foul-mouthed Ryan Pilkington, a troubled youngster who gets caught up in the action. He has already been seen leading a gang on an inner-city estate and attacking the show's central character, Det Ch Insp Tony Gates, after he was kidnapped.

His fellow drama school pupil Jordyn-Eve, of Whittington Road in Stourbridge, has also regularly appeared as DCI Gates's daughter Natalie.

This was the pair's first audition and they both say they did not expect such a positive reaction to their debut roles.

The two both attend Dramaworkshop at Chawn Hill Church, Stourbridge.

Extra hours for Olympics

SUPERMARKETS and high street stores across the region are extending their Sunday opening hours to fit in around the Olympics.

Bosses want to give shoppers more flexibility to catch the "must-see" events throughout the London Games.

It comes after the Government chose to relax Sunday trading laws to boost trade during the Games, when it is estimated more than a million people will visit the UK.

Dudley's Merry Hill shopping centre is among those extending its hours. The centre introduced its longer opening hours on Sunday and

shoppers can now visit between 10am and 6pm on Sundays until September 9.

Kelly Reed, marketing manager at the centre, said: "Supermarkets, department stores and speciality stores will all be open for longer on Sundays so that customers can plan their shopping trips around all the must-see events during the Olympics period."

Accommodating

Elsewhere in the borough, Waitrose in The Ryemarket, Stourbridge, will be open from 9.30am until 5.30pm.

A number of Asda stores are accommodating the Olympic Games.

In Sandwell the Asda in Great Bridge will extend its opening hours on Sundays from 9.30am to 4pm to 9am to 5pm, while at Asda in Oldbury their times will change from 8am to 10pm to 7am to 10pm on weekdays.

Morrison's in Wednesbury said it will not be changing its opening hours.

In Walsall, Marks and Spencer has announced it is increasing its hours to 9am to 6pm.

Bosses at The Saddlers Centre are now speaking to other retailers.

But Sainsbury's stores in Reedswood, Walsall, and Sandringham Way, Brierley Hill, are keeping their hours.

Chance to get sailing

A SAILING club near Dudley is to host taster days.

Himley Hall Sailing Club is allowing people to take to the water within the grounds off Himley Road.

The next event is on August 11. Club members will provide all necessary equipment.

The club was awarded a £7,500 grant by Sport England.

The funding will give hundreds the chance to try sailing for the first time.

To book a place call Ian Sim on 01902 755149. For further information visit: www.himleyhallsc.org.uk

Attendance record proves a winner



Joseph Burchell with Dudley mayor Councillor Melvyn Mottram and the mayoress, Michelle Mottram, celebrating his 100 per cent attendance record

MODEL pupil Joseph Burchell has never missed a day of school – and has been rewarded with a trip to the London Olympics.

The 11-year-old has reached the end of his time at Hurst Hill Primary School, Coseley with 100 per cent attendance record.

During seven years there he has clocked up nearly 10,000 hours of lessons without being off sick.

The sporty pupil, who also excels at maths and science and is heading to High Arcal School in September, has battled through the occasional cold to keep his unblemished record. Good attendance runs in the family – as his sister Lucy, four, is in her second year at the school and has also not missed a day.

Joseph, of Cedar Avenue, Coseley, said: "Hopefully when other children come into school they will try and follow what I have done."

He has been given tickets to a women's football match between Japan and New Zealand at Coventry's Ricoh Arena this Wednesday. And the Mayor of Dudley Councillor Melvyn Mottram gave him a certificate at a special school assembly.

Horses festival called off due to heavy rain

AN ANNUAL festival of horses that attracts thousands of visitors to a farm near Bewdley has become the latest victim of the recent heavy rain.

The ninth annual Trimpley Heavy Horse Festival, featuring the rare Suffolk Punch breed, was cancelled.

Organiser Mike Clarke said it was a "tough decision" but explained the ground at Holbeache Farm was still too wet for the long grass to be cut.

He said: "Although the sun is shining this week it will take a good week of dry weather to dry the long grass out on the fields."

"Until the grass is completely dry we are unable to cut it."

The cancellation comes just days after the Trimpley Steam and Vintage Rally at Bite Farm was also called off due to the previous heavy downpours.

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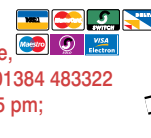
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NEWS

Eye in the sky has been on watch for 25 years

NOSTALGIC photographs charting the 25-year history of the West Midlands Police helicopter unit have been released.

The force has had an "eye in the sky" since 1987 and has operated different aircraft throughout that time.

Over the years, the unit has helped in the apprehension of thousands of criminals and its current chopper hi-tech surveillance equipment such as heat-seeking technology, a 30-million candlelight searchlight and video thermal camera.

But having access to top technology has not always been the way.

When the unit started, officers had to carry hand-held camcorders and lean out of the side of the choppers to film suspects.

Airborne police could only talk to ground officers over the radio system if they were in eyesight of each other because the frequency was so limited.

Massively

Martin Knowles, deputy executive officer at the unit, said: "I started in 1992 and things were very different then. There was no thermal camera equipment or anything like that. Things have certainly progressed massively over the past 20 years."

The Midlands Air Operations Unit began at Birmingham Airport in July 1987, as a consortium involving West Midlands, Warwickshire, West Mercia and Staffordshire Police.

Now the helicopter is recognised as one of the force's most valuable assets in the fight against crime.

Last year, it stopped almost £1 million of property from being stolen and played an integral role in the arrest of almost 500 people.

During 2011, the Eurocopter machine helped stop £961,000 of property from being stolen.

It has attended 3,840 incidents, flying more than 1,180 hours and helping to secure the arrest of 497 criminals. The copter also located 17 missing people.



The police helicopter dating from the mid to late 1980s



1989 saw its livery changed to the familiar "jam sandwich"



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CLUB NEWS

Tops sale brings in club cash

HAWNE E TWG

THE chairman welcomed everyone to the July meeting.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and signed. There were several matters arising. Sheila said she had sent a photo of members who were presented with long service awards at the last meeting to HQ, and hopefully it would be in the next magazine.

Sandra gave a report of the AGM in Birmingham. Ten members attended. Next year it will be in Harrogate.

Sandra Matchett announced the Titanic lunch in Worcester Cathedral on September 16 and also the Harvest Supper organised by the federation in October.

Sylvia announced the Christmas outing will be to Chatsworth on November 22.

On this evening members had brought nearly new tops to sell, to help club funds and approximately £26 was raised.

Speakers were John and Annette Christopher's fun with clay. They brought a display of pottery for sale and all the ladies made a small plaque of their own initial which was then made into a large pot. They shall be raffled off at a later date.

Teas and biscuits were served. The sales table raffie and books did a brisk trade.

The next meeting will be on September 17, the Harvest Supper. The competition will be a photo of nature. For enquiries, call 0121 602 0830.

Happy afternoon for all at 'big tea' event



Inner Wheel Club president Janet Weston with Carl & Gill Downing together with the President of Sedgley & Wombourne Rotary Club Rotarian Tony Brown

INNER WHEEL CLUB SEDGLEY & WOMBOURNE

ON JULY 7 the Inner Wheel club of Sedgley & Wombourne held a Marie Curie 'Big Tea Party' at the home of Gill and Carl Downing. The sun came out and a happy afternoon

was enjoyed by all the guests. Delicious teas and cakes were served and Sainsbury's sponsored the event by providing jam and cream for the home made scones.

History of postal service

AT THE July meeting Chris Jackson spoke about the "Postal History of Worcestershire".

He explained the history of the postal service from 1635 when Charles I opened up the Royal Mail for public use.

Letters were charged according to the distance carried and the number of sheets in the letter and all were sent via London thus incurring a charge to and

KINGSWINFORD & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

from the capital. Letters were paid for by the recipient and not the sender.

The postmark to indicate the date and time the letter was received by the postal service was first introduced

in 1661. Rowland Hill, born in Kidderminster, showed an interest in postal reform. In January 1840 he was given a two-year contract to run the new system and introduced the penny post.

Progress of the postal service and the introduction of the automation in later years is the subject of a further talk.

The next speaker on August 6 is Mark Hannan on "Antiques at Auction".

Learning the health benefits of tai chi

COVEN WI

PRESIDENT Jo Hadley opened the July meeting to members and guests, a stirring rendition of Jerusalem was sung and all formal business was concluded.

The club then welcomed Paul Gascoine who presented tai chi.

He introduced the group to its history and explained it is essentially a martial art but the discipline also promotes relaxation, confidence, flexibility, mobility and all general aspects of health wellbeing.

For the past seven years Paul has run groups for cardiac and stroke rehabilitation.

He demonstrated sequences some using apparatus and then instructed us through a programme whilst we were all seated and soon involved practising the elements of balance, stretching activating muscles to help support our joints, throughout aware of the calming influences.

Paul held a captive audience and some WI members currently support his local tai chi group.

Members who attended the chocolate presentation by Jackie Roberts at Codsall Wood reported an excellent evening with sumptuous food. In August Coven members look forward to a skittles night with buffet.

The July meeting concluded with a raffie and refreshments.

The next meeting, on September 11 at 7.30pm at Coven Memorial Hall, will welcome Coven Craft Club to demonstrate a card making workshop.

Red, white and blue is the colour at AGM



Carol Manlove, Val Chalker, Val Walker, Ann Sale and Pat Heeley sporting their red white and blue at the National AGM at the International Convention Centre

INCLUDED in July's business matters was a comprehensive report from Carol Manlove, the club's delegate at the National Annual General Meeting held at the International Convention Centre, Birmingham.

She outlined particulars of the mandates discussed and adopted. Praise was given to speakers Esther Rantzen and Eric Knowles.

The July meeting continued with the speaker Patsie Jarman, who gave an informative talk and slide show on David Garrick - the actor raised in London who found fame

PELSALL 'E' TOWNSWOMEN

and fortune on the stage in London.

The Prize for the best theatre souvenir was won by Glynis Marsden with a pair of antique opera glasses and the monthly raffie was won by Pat Johnson.

The next meeting on August 16 is the annual fish and chip supper with a Diamond Jubilee theme.

Garden party for jubilee

PERTON Jubilee Townswomen's Guild celebrated the Queen's Diamond Jubilee with a garden party at the home of the chairman Jenny Bennett.

Due to the inclement weather, the chairman and a member erected a large tent which accommodated everyone, including two guests Wynn and Ram Sharma. Wynn had written several poems for the occasion

PERTON JUBILEE TOWNSWOMEN

which everyone enjoyed. The food and wine were delicious and fortunately the rain held off.

Twelve members attended the National AGM at the ICC in Birmingham. The mandates were passed

Next year's AGM will be in Harrogate.

The August speaker will be South Staffordshire MP Gavin Williamson who will talk about his life before becoming a member of parliament.

The group meets in Perton Civic Centre every Wednesday at 7.30pm. Visitors are welcome. Enquiries to Sylvia on 01902 754002 or Pat on 01902 763897.

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NEWS

Mother's drinking led to a conviction

THE MOTHER of a seven-week-old baby went looking for her partner because post natal depression made her falsely suspicious he was cheating on her, a court heard. It resulted in a drink-drive conviction.

Rachel While was arrested after moving her car just a few yards. While, aged 33, of St James Road, Oldbury, admitted driving with 55 micrograms of alcohol in 100mls breath – the limit is 35 micrograms.

She was banned from driving for a year, fined £110 and ordered to pay £85 costs and a £15 victim surcharge.

Dudley magistrates told her the ban could be reduced by three months if she completed a drink-drive rehabilitation course.

Mr Mark Cooper, prosecuting, said police were called after CCTV showed a domestic argument taking place in Wolverhampton Street, Dudley, on July 16. She admitted she had drunk three double vodkas.

Mr Jason Georgiou, defending, said the circumstances were "most unusual" because she had moved the car only a few yards as it was on double yellow lines.

He said her partner had their baby son for the day but post natal depression was giving her "suspicious feelings" that he was "cheating" on her. She had driven into Dudley to see if he was.

Grandmother's legacy helps fight against breast cancer



Jane Rymer and daughter Sarah Wall who presented the legacy to Cancer Research UK

A GRANDMOTHER left £50,000 in her will to Cancer Research UK to help combat the disease that struck three generations of her family. Margaret Wall, who was successfully treated for ovarian cancer in 2001, died aged 85 seven years later.

Her daughter Jane Rymer, who lives near Kidderminster, and granddaughter Sarah Wall also suffered from breast cancer.

Now years later, both have survived and presented the generous legacy to the charity during a tour of the Birmingham Cancer Research UK Centre.

It will be used exclusively to fund the charity's breast cancer research across the UK.

Mrs Rymer, who promotes houses for parties and corporate events, said: "I'm so proud of my mother and the legacy she has left."

The 54-year-old was diagnosed with an aggressive form of breast cancer in 2003 after making a chance comment about a dimple to a doctor.

Mrs Rymer, mother-of-two, had undergone surgery to remove a lump, then four months of chemotherapy and three weeks of radiotherapy when Margaret died.

Margaret's granddaughter, Sarah, 35, from Edgbaston, was also diagnosed with breast cancer in 2007 at the



Margaret Wall

age of 30. She underwent surgery three times during four-and-a-half years but is now back at work.

Mrs Rymer, of Hackman's Gate, near Belbroughton, added: "The lives of those who have cancer and their families are deeply affected and while Sarah and I have beaten the disease it's important to recognise that not everyone survives."

"It's our hope that mum's legacy will help Cancer Research UK beat the disease for everyone."

NEWS in brief

Try your skills at bushcraft

TRADITIONAL crafts are on offer at an outdoor centre near Stourport this month.

Visitors can try their hand at new hobbies and learn traditional skills in woodworking and 'age old' crafts including a bushcraft course at Bishops Wood Centre, Crossway Green.

The bushcraft course runs on August 10 from 9am until 4pm. There is a fee for the course and places should be booked by calling 01299 250513 or email bishopswoodcentre@worcestershire.gov.uk.

Centre co-ordinator Gill Frankling said: "This is just one of a number of courses we have."

Fire station to open its door

A FIRE station in Worcestershire will be holding an open day on Saturday.

Firefighters at Redditch will host the annual event from 11am until 3pm.

Rescue equipment and vehicles will be on display at the fire station in Birmingham Road. Visitors will be able to pick up a range of fire, water and road safety advice.

Carers celebrate

FOSTER carers in Dudley have celebrated their graduation through an internationally accredited training programme.

This is the eighth group to graduate through the intensive training course.

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(T&C's below)

IRENE 55, blonde hair, brown eyes, loving, caring, genuine, N/S, lots of love to give, seeks male, 55-60 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392807**

HELEN 34yr old single mum slim intelligent, seeks nice male for adult companionship with good potential for a great relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394121** @

SUSIE gorgeously feminine and sensual, loves lazy summer days, misses male companionship WLTm someone with sense of adventure and lust for life. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394117** @

LOUISE youthful looking female looking for spontaneous male to put some love and lust back into life. Call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392491** @

SARAH 23, attractive, brunette, slim, looking for male for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392979** @

KAREN witty female who loves to laugh, WLTm similar male to share interests, romance, cosy nights in and more. Pls call. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393125** @

CARING lady, 52, brown hair/eyes, seeks male, 30-60 for socialising, meals out, cinema, music, sports and having a laugh. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392883** @

FARMER'S granddaughter, OHAC, stunningly attractive, respectable, sincere, WLTm countryman/bachelor, 48-62, 5ft 9ins plus, genuine, uncomplicated with GSOH and TLC. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 387204**

POLLY dark hair, 50, attractive, outgoing, seeks special outgoing male for days out etc. Telford. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 371127** @

BLONDE tanned female, trendy, 46, GSOH, likes walks, pubs, nights in, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 384852** @

LOVING caring young 67yr old female, 5ft 2ins, slim size 12, brown hair, likes meals out, GSOH, smoker, seeks slim, smart male with GSOH, 58-62. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 364651** @

SUE 5ft 2ins female, brown hair/eyes, loving, likes music, socialising, films, good times, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393223**

LADY widow, 58, slim, brown hair, blue eyes, seeks smart, intelligent, easygoing man with GSOH who enjoys conversations, days out, short breaks, meals out. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 387247**

SALLY slim attractive feisty redhead, intelligent, easygoing, WLTm similar male for friendship and more, looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393469** @

WIDOW 70, genuine, kind, caring, laidback, seeking male for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 387013**

EASYGOING down to earth female, likes cooking, exploring new things in life, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 386893** @

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KATHY caring lady 60, medium build, smoker, seeks caring, smart male 55-65 for companionship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 374773** @

BETTY fuller figured black female, 26, body confident, affectionate, WLTm older chocolate loving male for daytime meets. Any status. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 377511** @

FUN loving lady, outgoing, honest, caring, likes socialising, seeks older male, 50-70. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 383325** @

NICKY looking for attractive male 48-55yrs for fun, good times and relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 388393**

50YR old female, seeks male for fun and socialising. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 233580**

KIND loving lady 43, slight disability, seeks genuine male for romance. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391863**

LONG haired blonde, 37, enjoys meals out but would love to cook a romantic meal for the man of her dreams. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 361076** @

CHLOE pretty single female 60yrs, dark hair/eyes, slim build, very lonely and looking for reliable male for mutual companionship maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 387057** @

SINGLE MEN

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GOOD looking 48yr old male, GSOH, honest, caring, loyal, hurt in past, looking for loving female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394159** @

SEAN 45, caring, kind, loving, animal lover, seeks female with similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394149** @

JOSEPH 40 tall, GSOH, seeks female, 26-48 for fun and relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394103** @

GOOD looking male, brown hair, blue eyes, 5ft 6ins, seeks female for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392092**

HONEST loyal male, 64, seeks lady for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393759** @

MATTHEW 5ft 3ins, medium build, good body, seeking fit female for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393743**

TIGER Woods lookalike, seeks big beautiful woman for fun and games. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393737** @

MALE 70's widow, kind, honest, caring, likes socialising, holidays, nights in/out, seeks loving female for respectful, caring relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393559**

DAVE 47, well built, divorced, 2 children, WLTm lady of similar age for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393789** @

DON 55, 5ft 6ins, brown hair, blue eyes, seeks lady, any age for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392100** @

5FT 6ins male, blue eyes, generous, likes a drink, cinema, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392094** @

32YR old slim, dark haired male, adventurous, creative, likes music, walks, cycling, photography, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 352753** @

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GOOD looking 39yr old male, likes pubs, music, walks, swimming, seeks nice female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392943** @

51YR old male, 6ft, dark hair, single parent, likes most things, sports, seeks slim, honest, caring female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392933** @

THOMAS 39, seeks female, 27-48 for relationship and fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392851** @

45YR old male, average build, GSOH, likes country walks, meals out, don't be shy, now reply. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393137** @

KIND honest, caring male, 70, likes socialising, holidays, OHAC, seeks female, 60-70 for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393053**

DARK handsome male, Tiger Woods lookalike, seeking BBW. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392179** @

PROFESSIONAL male, 42, hurt in past, seeks female, 32-40. Single mum welcome. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392769** @

NAUGHTY 40 something, tall, smart, GSOH, seeks lady for rainy days and Sundays. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392665** @

TOM 62, fit, likes tennis, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392659** @

MALE 38, seeks female, any age for daytime fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392645** @

MARK 44, easygoing, fun loving, athletic, seeks similar aged female for fun, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 197470**

BLACK male, 42, 5ft 7ins, average build, GSOH, seeks nice looking, slim-medium build female, 30-40 with GSOH for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 386347**

YOUNG at heart, professional, N/S male, 50, fit, sporty, likes DIY, outdoors, seeks similar female, 44-54 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 365972**

KARL 40, fun loving, caring, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 389662** @

MALE 49, sensitive, caring, warm, body builder, seeks slim, attractive, genuine soul mate in the local area. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 368717** @

RALPH 65, 6ft, quiet, genuine, lonely widower, likes nights in/out, weekends away, seeks slim-medium build widowed lady for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391359**

GAY SINGLES

MALE 44, seeking male, 18-23 for fun relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391626** @

BI male, divorced, young, fit 50, own home/business, seeks male, 18-45 for good times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391849** @

MALE 58, youthful, serene nature, understanding, loyal, honest, seeks similar mature female for everlasting relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391833**

MALE 34, attractive, 5ft 10ins, blue eyes, blond hair, seeks slim male for fun relationship. Any area, can travel. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 311892** @

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BOOKS

Summer paperbacks for young readers

by Leon Burakowski

THE PURSUIT of a butterfly in an Australian office block literally triggers the 'Butterfly Effect' of unforeseen profound consequences around the planet in Matt Dickinson's *Deep Oblivion* (Oxford University Press, teenage).

The invisible connections influence the life and death struggles of people across the globe in a similar fast-paced adventure to his thriller *Mortal Chaos*.

New queen of teen Maureen Johnson's US school satire sees Jane try to rescue her best friend from a deal with the devil at their Catholic girls' school in *Devilish* (Harper Collins, 13 plus).

Laugh-out-loud funny with lots of slapstick as student Taullulah Casey pursues the perfect snog, *A Midsummer Tights Dream* (Harper Collins, 12 plus) is Louise Rennison's sequel to *Withering Tights*. It's from the same author who penned Angus Thongs and Perfect Snogging.

boy. The other four books in the series, which began in 2005, are being republished.

Gothic

Stormswept (Harper Collins, nine plus) is the latest novel in Cornish writer Helen Dunmore's Ingo Chronicles series, but this stand-alone title is accessible to those so far unaware of her environment-conscious books about the overlap between human and Mer people worlds. Instead of a crab or broken surfboard washed up on the beach, Morveren discovers a teenage boy half-buried in the sand but he's no ordinary boy.

Teenage fans of gothic romance will want to find out what happens to Amelia, the ghostly heroine of Tara Hudson's *Hereafter*, who is still determined on mortal love in the sequel *Arise* (Harper Collins). This time Amelia's search for answers and a more substantial future take her to America's most supernatural city, New Orleans, and the power of voodoo.

Epic space opera *A Confusion of Princes* (Harper Collins, 13 plus) by Garth Nix harks back to the golden days of sci-fi, a romp

through a galactic empire. As it's a stand-alone, readers don't have to wade through a library of existing titles to get up to speed with Prince Khemri's world(s).

Japanese and European mythologies influence *The Hidden Kingdom* (Oxford University Press, 12 plus) an epic new fantasy from experienced children's author Ian Beck. A pampered prince has to mature quickly and his female protector face many challenges in a snowy landscape as human armies and demons clash.

Join Esme and Monty Pepper, plus their Uncle Potty and troupe, in the old theatre on the end of the pier for magic and madcap adventures in Sian Pattenden's *The Magical Peppers and the Island of Invention* (Harper Collins, nine plus). The twins investigate when magicians disappear.

Teenager Mikey, who suffered brain damage in an accident, uses a gift which he calls "the backwards" to look into the past and try to uncover the truth about his father's disappearance. Sarah Hammond's unusual teen read *The Night Sky In My Head* (Oxford University Press) has been compared with *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* and it is certainly a promising debut by the writer from Lincolnshire.

Oxford University Press have reprinted *The Little Grey Men* by BB, a near forgotten children's novel from the 1940s about a group of gnomes who live beside a Warwickshire brook. When one of their number, Cloudberry, goes missing they set off on a quest to find him. 'BB' was English naturalist Denys Watkins-Pitchford and his love of the countryside and illustrations infuse this slightly old-fashioned but often enchanting fairy tale. A magical garden gnome can help a boy's horse racing dream come true, even if he's only got a donkey, in *Mr Skip* (Harper Collins, pre-teen), a reprint of an amusing, undemanding read by War Horse author Michael Morpurgo.



It's wicked being popular in Maureen Johnson's supernatural satire



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* The "from" price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure for details. Single room supplements apply.

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Please read brochure/web page for full information plus terms and conditions

What's On! Halesowen

Things that go bump at castle

Visitors to Dudley Castle can go in search of ghouls and ghosts at the latest night-time events.

The latest supper and ghost hunt takes place on August 11 from 7.30pm to 3am.

Visitors will work in small groups but can also go alone in certain areas.

As midnight approaches everyone will join together for a séance in the area of the site that has been identified as "most active".

Tickets for the event, arranged by Haunted Happenings, cost £59. For more information call 01527451873.

Summer packed with activities

THE Summer Activezone, which runs until August 13, offers free and paid-for physical activity for children aged five to 16. Coaching is available throughout at Halesowen Leisure Centre. These include swimming, trampolining, dance mats and fun pool sessions.

For more information visit www.dudley.gov.uk/sp or, call 01384 815594 or email activezone@dudley.gov.uk.

Pond dipping

A pond dipping event will be held at The Leasowes park on August 8, between 10am and noon.

People should meet at the warden's base, off Mucklow Hill, Halesowen. Booking is required. Call 01384 814642.

Stone Roses return to join The Killers as V headliners

TENS of thousands of music fans will descend on Staffordshire later this month for the 17th annual V Festival.

American rockers The Killers make a welcome return to Weston Park to headline this year's two-day pop and rock bonanza alongside Manchester's comeback kings The Stone Roses, who are due to appear at V for the first time.

Ben will be Jesus at NIA

WINNER of TV show Superstar Ben Forster will take the starring role in Birmingham when Jesus Christ Superstar comes to the NIA on October 4 and on its newly announced additional NIA date of October 5.

Forster will play the leading role in the first ever UK arena tour of Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber's hit musical from the 1970s.

He will join Aussie comedian and musician Tim Minchin as Judas Iscariot, former Spice Girl and Superstar judge Melanie C as Mary Magdalene and outgoing Radio 1 breakfast DJ Chris Moyles as King Herod. Tickets cost from £45 to £65 (plus fees). Call 0844 338 8000.

Noel Gallagher's High Flying Birds, Snow Patrol, Tinie Tempah, Example, Nicki Minaj, Ed Sheeran and David Guetta have been lined up for the popular festival, which takes place on August 18 and 19.

Also on the bill are The Happy Mondays, Tom Jones, James Morrison, Rizzle Kicks, The Enemy, Pixie Lott, Keane, Nero and Madness.

Comedy

Dozens of acts will be spread across four stages while the Glee Club Comedy Tent – being headlined by top stand-ups Sean Lock and Tim Minchin – returns.

The Stone Roses, fronted by V favourite Ian Brown, are set to attract a big crowd having reunited last year following a 15-year hiatus.

Tickets are still available see www.vfestival.com/ticket for details.



Former Oasis man Noel Gallagher bring his High Flying Birds to the V Festival

Apocalyptic concert for rocker Slash

SLASH, English-born guitarist with American band Guns N' Roses, is coming to Birmingham NIA in October as part of his UK solo tour.

The gig on October 9 follows the success of Slash's second solo album, Apocalyptic Love. It followed the Staffordshire-raised rocker's 2010 debut album Slash and his first live solo album Made In Stoke 24/7/11.

Lydon

Tickets will be on sale from 9am tomorrow (Friday) priced at £32 (plus fees) available online from www.theticketfactory.com or by calling 0844 338 8000.

Meanwhile, former Sex Pistols frontman John Lydon brings his new-look Public Image Ltd to Wolverhampton's Wulfrun Hall tonight (Friday). Tickets are £25 (plus fees). Call 0870 320 700.

Churches put food on offer

MORE than 100 youngsters will be served food by two Cradley churches as part of a free school meals summer campaign.

St Peters and Providence Methodist churches are ready for the events called Cradley Makes Lunch. Children from Caslon, Colley Lane and Cradley CofE primary schools who receive free school meals were given vouchers. There will also be craft sessions available. They will be at Providence Methodist Church, Windmill Hill on, August 9. Call 07811 001353.

Plans on view of gateway changes

PEOPLE can view plans detailing the transformation of one of the gateways to Cradley at an event running at the town's library.

Residents can give their views on plans for the Windmill Hill area of Cradley. The scheme includes new benches, public artwork and bus shelters to make the streets more attractive to shoppers. Plans will be on display at Cradley Library, in Colley Lane. For details call 01384 812885.

Going exploring

PEOPLE can explore historical landmarks around Halesowen on August 6. It starts at the activity centre in Huntingtree Park, Huntingtree Road, Halesowen. Call 01384 816992 or 07799 070089.

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What's On!

SATURDAY'S TV 4.08.12

CHOICE



Laura Trott

Olympics 2012

BBC1, 6.50pm
Gary Lineker presents, as athletics takes centre stage on a potentially glorious night for Team GB. Assuming she made it through the first six events unscathed, Jessica Ennis will be hoping to earn the gold medal in the heptathlon. The Sheffield star will be sure to use up every remaining ounce of energy as she battles to earn a memorable overall victory, although defending champion Nataliya Dobrynska is unlikely to give up her title without a fight. Mo Farah is also in action tonight, as he takes on the world's elite in the 10,000m.

BBC1

6.00 Olympic Breakfast. A round-up of national and international news. **8.45** Olympics 2012. Mishal Husain introduces coverage of the opening event on day eight of the Games, as the women's triathlon takes place in and around Hyde Park from 9.00. **11.20** Olympics 2012. The concluding rowing finals and the start of the men's 100m athletics. **1.00** BBC News. Regional News. Weather. **1.15** Olympics 2012. Clare Balding introduces further coverage of 'Super Saturday', which includes the women's tennis singles final and the women's trampolining final. **5.00** BBC News. Regional News. Weather. **5.15** Olympics 2012. The latest track cycling finals.

6.50 Olympics 2012. Gary Lineker introduces a busy evening of events at the Olympic Stadium. The full schedule features the men's 400m hurdles semi-finals from 7.00, women's 100m semi-finals from 7.35 and final at 9.55, men's long jump final from 7.55, women's 400m semi-finals from 8.05, heptathlon 800m at 8.35 and the men's 10,000m final at 9.15.

10.10 BBC News. Weather.

10.30 The National Lottery Saturday Night Draws.

10.40 Olympics Tonight. Gabby Logan and guests look back on the eighth day's events at the London Games, and present live coverage of the sports still taking place, featuring men's boxing and basketball.

12.00 BBC News. **12.10** Olympic Sportsday. Dan Walker presents a final round-up of the eighth day's events at London 2012. **12.55** Weatherview. **1.00** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 CBeebies. **7.00** CBBC. **12.15** Film: Fort Apache. (1948) **2.20** Film: The Fall of the Roman Empire. (1964) **5.15** Antiques Road Trip. (R)

6.00 Great British Railway Journeys. Michael Portillo investigates parallel roads etched in the side of Glen Roy. (R)

6.30 Flog It! The team visits Loughborough, Leicestershire, where valuable finds include a pair of Whitefriars glass vases, a Shelley tea set and a Moorcroft vase. (R)

7.30 Dad's Army. Captain Mainwaring's men acquire a boat, planning to use it for coastal patrols, but they get lost in fog and believe they have crossed the Channel when they finally reach dry land. (R)

8.00 BBC Proms 2012. From the Royal Albert Hall, London, conductor Herve Niquet leads Le Concert Spirituel in performances of Handel's Water Music and the Music for the Royal Fireworks. Presented by Katie Derham.

9.20 QI. With Bill Bailey, Rich Hall and Rob Brydon. (R)

9.50 TOTP2: Summertime Special. Archive summer sounds, featuring songs by the Undertones, Bananarama, Bay City Rollers, Fun Boy Three, the Style Council, Martha and the Muffins, Bryan Adams, Girls Aloud and ELO. (R) National Lottery Update.

10.50 Film: Little Voice. (1998) Comedy drama, starring Jane Horrocks.

12.20 Film: The Boys and Girl from County Clare. (2003) **1.50** Close.

ITV1

6.00 CITV. Mini CITV. **7.20** CITV. **8.25** Saturday Cookbook. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **10.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **11.20** The Real Housewives of New York City. **12.20** ITV News. Weather. **12.30** All Star Family Fortunes. (R) **1.30** Film: All Creatures Great and Small. (1975)

3.10 Film: Moonraker. (1979) James Bond spy adventure, starring Roger Moore. **5.30** Regional Programme. Weather. **5.45** ITV News. Weather.

6.00 Agatha Christie's Marple. A former policeman helps Miss Marple investigate a series of suspicious deaths in a peaceful village. Murder mystery, starring Julia McKenzie and Benedict Cumberbatch. (R)

8.00 Midsomer Murders. Barnaby investigates the world of Midsomer Priory when a nun is found strangled, and uncovers a mystery involving holy orders, teenage liaisons and missing antique silver. (R)

10.00 ITV News. Weather.

10.20 Mad Mad World. Stacey Solomon, Eamonn Holmes and Stephen K Amos are the guests joining Rufus Hound, Rhys Darby and regular panellist Rob Rouse for the comedy quiz. Presented by Paddy McGuinness.

11.00 Take Me Out. A construction worker, a fitness trainer, an accountant and a personnel recruiter try to impress 30 women, and last week's couples go on their dates. Paddy McGuinness presents. (R)

12.15 The Store. ITV News Headlines. **2.15** In Plain Sight. (R) **3.00** ITV Nightscreen. **5.30** ITV Morning News.

CHANNEL 4

6.05 The Hoobs. (R) **6.30** British F3. **7.00** The Grid. **7.25** Channel 4 Presents: London 2012 - Hannah Cockcroft Part III. (R) **7.30** Road to London 2012: That Paralympic Show. (R) **8.00** The Morning Line. **9.00** T4: Ibiza Rocks: Kasabian. (R) **9.20** T4: The Dark Knight Rises: T4 Movie Special. **9.55** T4: New Girl. (R) **10.25** T4: Revenge. **11.25** T4: Suburgatory. **11.55** T4: Summer Daze. **12.25** T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.55** T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.25** T4: The Simpsons. (R) **1.55** Channel 4 Racing. **4.10** Channel 4 Presents: London 2012 - David Smith Part III. (R) **4.15** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.45** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.15** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.50** Come Dine with Me. (R)

6.20 Come Dine with Me. Duncan Powell hosts the final dinner party in Newport, Gwent. (R)

6.45 Channel 4 News.

7.15 4Thought.tv.

7.20 The Million Pound Drop. Made in Chelsea's Hugo and Binky continue from last night, followed by Frankie Dettori and John McCricker, who get to see the categories and then decide who they want to answer it.

9.00 Film: Fracture. (2007) Premiere. A man shoots his wife, confesses the crime, and represents himself in court, where he demolishes the prosecution's case. Thriller, with Anthony Hopkins and Ryan Reynolds.

11.15 Film: Heat. (1995) Crime thriller, starring Robert De Niro and Al Pacino.

2.15 The Million Pound Drop. (R) **3.45** Channel 4 Presents - London 2012: Mandip Sehmi Part III. (R) **5.30** Happy Endings. **4.10** St Elsewhere. (R) **5.00** Deal or No Deal. (R) **5.55** Sall Mali. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Power Rangers: Super Samurai. **10.35** Batman: The Brave and the Bold. **11.10** Looney Tunes. **11.20** Big Brother: The Eviction. (R) **12.20** Film: McBride: Fallen Idol. (2006)

2.00 Talking to Heaven. (R) **5.15** Film: Jesse Stone: Death in Paradise. (2006)

6.55 5 News Weekend.

7.00 Cricket on 5. England v South Africa.

8.00 NCIS. The agents try to recapture a marine who escaped from a psychiatric unit. They are convinced he is suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, but they uncover a dark secret. (R)

9.00 Big Brother. Marcus Bentley narrates as the housemates lie in their beds, chat on the sofas and argue in the kitchen - all to give the viewing public something to talk about tomorrow.

10.10 CSI: Miami. Ryan and Walter investigate a killing at a trailer park, but suffer a major setback when a tornado hits the crime scene, blowing away vital evidence - including the corpse.

11.10 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. A man covered from head to toe with hair, a condition dubbed "human werewolf syndrome", is found murdered, and the investigators discover a surprise witness at the scene. (R)

12.10 SuperCasino. **4.00** HouseBusters. (R) **4.25** Divine Designs. (R) **4.50** Rough Guide to Eco Escapes. (R) **5.00** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.10** The Milkshake! Show. (R) **5.35** Thomas & Friends. (R) **5.45** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
9.00am Olympics 2012 **2.00pm** Olympics 2012 **7.00pm** Olympics 2012

BBC Four
7.00 The Blue Planet **8.00** 10 Things You Didn't Know About Avalanches **9.00** Wallander: Sidelacked **10.15** Julia Bradbury's Iceland Walk **11.15** Top of the Pops: 1977 **11.50** Pavlopetri - The City Beneath the Waves

ITV2
2.10 America's Got Talent **4.55** Film: The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas (2000) **6.45** Film: Charlie and the Chocolate Factory (2005) **9.00** Film: The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor (2008) **11.10** Film: Batman & Robin (1997)

ITV3
4.05 Inspector Morse **6.25** Film: The Great St Trinian's Train Robbery (1966) **8.20** Film: Carry On Camping (1969) Comedy, starring Sid James. **10.00** Agatha Christie's Marple

ITV4
3.20 The Sweeney **4.25** Film: The Battle of Midway (1976) **7.00** Film: 633 Squadron (1964) **9.00** Film: Rocky (1976) Oscar-winning drama, starring Sylvester Stallone. **11.25** Film: Ned Kelly (2003)

E4
3.00 Desperate Housewives **4.00** Revenge **5.00** How I Met Your Mother **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **7.30** Rules of Engagement **8.30** Suburgatory **9.00** Film: Hot Rod (2007) **10.45** The Big Bang Theory **11.45** The Midnight Beast

Film4
2.50 Carry On Cabby (1963) **4.40** Meet Dave (2008) **6.25** The Great Debaters (2007) **9.00** PS I Love You (2007) Romantic drama, starring Hilary Swank and Gerard Butler. **11.25** 30 Days of Night (2007)

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What's On!

SUNDAY'S TV 5.08.12

CHOICE



Ed Clancy

Olympics 2012

BBC1, 6.00pm
The men's Omnium track cycling concludes at the London Velodrome, with the 1km time-trial deciding the destination of the medals from 6.16. The time-trial is the last of six disciplines that make up the Omnium and Britain will be looking to Ed Clancy here as a real hope for team GB for success in an event that was not included in the 2008 Games, which took place in Beijing. Presented by Sue Barker alongside Jake Humphrey, with commentary provided by Hugh Porter alongside Chris Boardman, and trackside reports coming from Jill Douglas.

BBC1

6.00 Olympic Breakfast. A round-up of national and international news. **9.00** Olympics 2012. Coverage of the opening sports on day nine of the Games. **10.45** BBC News. **10.50** Olympics 2012. The women's marathon. Clare Balding and Tanni Grey-Thompson present coverage from the streets of London. With commentary by Steve Cram and Brendan Foster. **1.30** Olympics 2012. Clare Balding introduces coverage of the first-ever women's Olympic boxing bout, the conclusion of the men's Finn class sailing and the men's singles tennis final. **4.00** Olympics 2012. The men's singles tennis final and track cycling races. **5.35** BBC News.

6.00 **Olympics 2012.** The conclusion of the men's Omnium track cycling, with the 1km time-trial deciding the destination of the medals. Presented by Sue Barker and Jake Humphrey.

6.50 **Olympics 2012.** Gary Lineker presents coverage of this evening's athletics at the Olympic Stadium. The full schedule features the women's 400m hurdles first round from 7.00, men's high jump qualification from 7.05, women's triple jump final from 7.35, men's 100m semi-finals from 7.45 and final at 9.50, men's 1500m semi-finals from 8.15, men's hammer final from 8.20, men's 400m semi-finals from 8.40, women's 400m final at 9.10 and men's 3,000m steeplechase final at 9.25.

10.15 BBC News
10.40 Olympics Tonight.
12.00 BBC News. **12.10** Olympic Sportsday. **12.55** Weatherview. **1.00** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 CBeebies. **7.00** CBBC. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.30** Raymond Blanc: The Very Hungry Frenchman. (R) Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.30** Film: Buchanan Rides Alone. (1958) **1.50** Olympics 2012. The opening artistic gymnastics apparatus finals. **4.30** Great British Railway Journeys. (R) **5.00** Songs of Praise. **5.35** Olympics 2012. The women's track cycling sprint races. **6.00** **A History of Ancient Britain**

Special: Orkney's Stone Age Temple. Neil Oliver reports on a recently discovered 5,000-year-old temple on Orkney, which is helping to increase knowledge and understanding of the Neolithic people. (R)

7.00 **Antiques Roadshow.** Fiona Bruce and the team visit Tatton Park in Cheshire, where the keepsakes and collectibles up for valuation include one of the rarest known pieces of Royal Worcester porcelain. (R)

8.00 **Exploring China: A Culinary Adventure.** New series. Ken Hom and Ching He-Huang set out on a culinary trek across the country, beginning in Beijing by visiting restaurants and learning locals' traditional cooking methods. (R)

9.00 **The Dark: Nature's Nighttime World.** Nocturnal creatures in a flooded Amazon forest. (R)

10.00 **Film: Edge of Darkness.** (2010) Premiere. Thriller, starring Mel Gibson.

11.45 **Film: Judgment Night.** (1993) Thriller, starring Emilio Estevez.
1.30 Sign Zone: Holly City. (R)
2.30 Britain's Heritage Heroes. (R)
3.00 Real Rescues. (R) **3.45** Close.

ITV1

6.00 CITV: Mini CITV. **7.20** CITV. **8.25** Dinner Date. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** House Gift. (R) **10.25** There's No Taste Like Home. (R) **11.25** The Hungry Sailors. (R) **12.25** ITV News: Weather. **12.30** Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) **1.30** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **2.30** Film: Columbo: It's All in the Game. (1993) **4.25** Doc Martin. (R) **5.25** Doc Martin. (R)

6.25 **Regional Programme:** Weather.

6.40 **ITV News:** Weather.

7.00 **The Zoo.** Part two of two. The programme reveals how the keepers entertain the 1.5 million visitors the Zoological Society of London receives annually.

8.00 **A Touch of Frost.** Part one of two. David Jason is joined by guests Phyllis Logan and Adrian Dunbar for his last-ever turn as Jack Frost, investigating a copycat killer and the murder of a teenager. (R)

10.00 **ITV News at Ten:** Weather.

10.15 **The Briefs.** Two-part documentary exploring the world of criminal law, with access to one of Britain's leading legal-aid practices. A man is on trial for blackmailing Coleen Rooney. (R)

11.20 **Premiership Rugby Sevens Series.** Action from the Recreation Ground in Bath, as the winners and runners-up from the three groups competed in two more pools, before the top two sides contested the final.

12.15 **The Store:** ITV News Headlines. **2.15** Golden Balls. Game show, hosted by Jasper Carrott. (R) **3.05** Motorsport UK. **3.55** ITV Nightscreen. **5.30** ITV Morning News.

CHANNEL 4

6.00 The Treacle People. (R) **6.10** The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** The Hoobs. (R) **7.00** Intelligent Sport UK Challenge. **7.25** Channel 4 Presents - London 2012: Danielle Brown Part III. (R) **7.30** Road to London 2012: Paralympics Extra. A preview of the swimming competition at the Games. **8.00** Will & Grace. (R) **8.25** Will & Grace. (R) **8.50** Frasier. (R) **9.20** Frasier. (R) **10.00** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.35** The Simpsons. (R) **2.05** The Simpsons. (R) **2.35** Jamie Does Venice. (R) **3.40** How to Cook Like Heston. (R) **4.15** Deal or No Deal. **5.15** Film: Hairspray. (2007)

Channel 4 News.
7.55 **4thought** tv. Chaplain Graham Locking discusses the important things in life.

8.00 **Come Dine with Me.** Well-heeled estate agent James Quantrell hosts the first of four dinner parties in Surrey, with a best of British-themed evening, and the group dynamics soon become a talking point.

9.00 **Thelma's Gypsy Girls.** Four of the trainees work on their first wedding dress, but two of them squander their chance to impress and end up suspended from the course.

10.00 **Film: Sex and the City.** (2008) Journalist Carrie prepares for her wedding, but fiancé Big is starting to get cold feet. Comedy, starring Sarah Jessica Parker, Kim Cattrall, Kristin Davis and Cynthia Nixon.

12.50 **Film: 35 Shots of Rum.** (2008) Premiere. Drama, starring Alex Descas and Matt Dillon. **2.35** Camelot. (R) **3.25** Hollyoaks. (R) **5.30** Deal or No Deal. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Fifi and the Flowertots. (R) **6.25** City of Friends. (R) **6.40** Harry and His Bucket Full of Dinosaurs. (R) **6.50** Castle Farm. (R) **6.55** Abby's Flying Fairy School. (R) **7.05** Roolbarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.15** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **7.25** Play! (R) **7.35** Noddy in Toyland. (R) **7.45** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **7.50** Milkshake! Show Challenges. (R) **8.00** Milkshake! Show Songs. (R) **8.00** Little Princess. (R) **8.15** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.30** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **8.45** Rupert Bear. (R) **9.00** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **9.10** The Mr Men Show. (R) **9.25** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **9.40** Jelly Jamm. (R) **10.00** Power Rangers: Super Samurai. **10.35** Batman: The Brave and the Bold. **11.10** Looky, Looky. **11.20** Monkey Life. (R) **11.50** Big Brother. (R) **12.55** Film: Daleks' Invasion Earth: 2150 A.D. (1966) **2.35** Film: Police Academy 6: City Under Siege. (1989) **4.20** Film: The Karate Kid. (1984)

6.55 **5 News Weekend.**
7.00 **Cricket** on 5. England v South Africa.

8.00 **Once Upon a Time.** Mr Gold is convinced he knows August's true identity.

9.00 **Big Brother.** Further coverage from the reality show enclave.

10.00 **Film: Ultraviolet.** (2006) Sci-fi thriller, starring Milla Jovovich, Cameron Bright and Nick Chinlund.

11.50 **Film: Alien Hunter.** (2003) **1.35** SuperCino. **4.00** Sons of Anarchy. **4.45** Rough Guide to Weekend Breaks. (R) **5.00** Hansi's Helpline. (R) **5.10** The Milkshake! Show. (R) **5.35** Thomas & Friends. (R) **5.45** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
9.00am Olympics 2012 **2.00pm** Olympics 2012 **7.00pm** Olympics 2012

BBC Four
7.00 Himalaya with Michael Palin
8.00 Frank Skinner on George Formby
9.00 The Road to Coronation Street
10.20 Timeshift: Epic - A Cast of Thousands!
11.20 Shakespeare from Kabul

ITV2
3.10 Film: Charlie and the Chocolate Factory (2005) **5.25** Film: The Flintstones (1994) **7.15** Film: Mr Bean's Holiday (2007)

9.00 Benidorm **10.00** The Only Way Is Essex **10.45** Lemon La Vida Loca **11.30** Film: American Pie Presents Band Camp (2005)

ITV3
3.00 Dickinson's Real Deal **5.10** Film: The Great St Trinian's Train Robbery (1966) **7.05** Film: Arthur (1981) **9.00** Film: Psycho (1960)

11.15 Trial & Retribution

ITV4
2.30 Film: The Gunfight at Dodge City (1959) **4.15** Film: Spartacus (1960) **8.00** Premiership Rugby Sevens Series **9.00** Film: The Enforcer (1976) **11.00** Film: Bride of Chucky (1998)

E4
3.15 Glee **4.10** New Girl **4.40** Suburgatory **5.05** Revenge **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **8.00** Film: X-Men (2000) Sci-fi comic-book adventure, starring Hugh Jackman.

10.00 Rude Tube: Love Bytes **11.05** 2 Broke Girls **11.35** New Girl

Film4
3.10 James and the Giant Peach (1996) Children's fantasy, with Paul Terry. **4.45** Chariots of Fire (1981) Oscar-winning drama, starring Ben Cross. **7.10** Legend (1985) **9.00** The Bank Job (2008) **11.10** Final Destination 3 (2006)

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by Harry Shaw Supercoach

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The Russell Hotel on the sea front:

5 Days • 4 Nights - 11 February from £159.95
4 Days • 3 Nights - 12 October from £169.95

Learn Hotel on the Esplanade:

3 Days • 2 Nights - 28 September from £99.95
5 Days • 4 Nights - 13 August & 15 October from £199.95

Berkeley Hotel on Esplanade:

2 Days • 1 Night - 25 August, 15 September from £69.95

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5 Days • 4 Nights: 26 August from £189.95

Mystery Tours 2 Days • 1 Night - Half Board:

11 & 25 August, 01 September from £49.95

Summer Specials

Jersey & Guernsey
06 August - 5 Days • 4 Nights from £399.95

Isle of Wight - Langham Court Hotel, Shanklin
06 August - 5 Days • 4 Nights from £199.95

Pontins - Camber Sands - 5 Days • 4 Nights
06 August Adults from £129.95 • Kids £89.95

Skegness - Charnwood Hotel
06 August - 5 Days • 4 Nights from £199.95

A Taste of Ireland - 3* Royal Hotel, Bray
06 August - 5 Days • 4 Nights from £299.95

Tom Jones & Racing at Newmarket
10 August - 2 Days • 1 Night from £99.95

Austria - Kirchberg Flower Parade
11 August - 8 Days • 7 Nights from £469.95

Yorkshire Dales Scarecrow Festival & York
11 August - 2 Days • 1 Night from £69.95

Liverpool Break - Adelphi Hotel
12 August - 2 Days • 1 Night from £49.95

Blackpool - Norbreck Castle Hotel
13 August - 5 Days • 4 Nights from £149.95

Isle of Wight - Cygnet Hotel, Sandown
13 August - 5 Days • 4 Nights from £199.95

Mayo & Galway - Downhill House Hotel
13 August - 5 Days • 4 Nights from £269.95

Weymouth
13 August - 5 Days • 4 Nights from £199.95

York, Northumbrian Coast & Durham
Redworth Hall Hotel
17 August - 3 Days • 2 Nights from £149.95

Paris - 17 August - 4 Days • 3 Nights
from £179.95

Edinburgh Tattoo & the Lake District
17 August - 3 Days • 2 Nights from £199.95

Budapest & Hidden Hungary
18 August - 8 Days • 7 Nights from £299.95

Bury Market, Lancashire Steam & Victorian Southport
18 August - 2 Days • 1 Night from £69.95

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18 August - 9 Days • 8 Nights from £559.95

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18 August - 2 Days • 1 Night from £49.95

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What's On!

Film Choices

MONDAY

Red Sonja, Channel 5, 10.55pm

A female warrior resolves to stop an evil queen unleashing the destructive power of a magical orb that allows control of the elements, and make the malevolent monarch pay for murdering her family. Fantasy adventure, starring Brigitte Nielsen. (1985)

TUESDAY

Jungle Book, Channel 4, 1.05pm

A teenager raised by wolves returns to the village where he was born. He relearns human ways, but after a while decides to return to his old jungle home and reunite with his animal friends to help foil a greedy merchant's evil scheme. Adventure, based on Rudyard Kipling's classic novel, starring Sabu. (1942)

The Island, ITV1, 10.35pm

The naive survivors of an apparent ecological disaster work, rest and play inside their utopian sealed community in the year 2019, each hoping to win a ticket to an idyllic island in a regular lottery draw. However, a curious inhabitant discovers the restricted society is a facade shielding a sinister cloning operation and is determined to escape. Sci-fi thriller, starring Ewan McGregor and Scarlett Johansson. (2005)



The Bourne Ultimatum, Friday, ITV1, 10.35pm

WEDNESDAY

Dead Calm, ITV1, 10.35pm

A husband and wife take a yachting trip to help recover from the death of their son. While out on the open water the couple spot a sinking ship and manage to save the only person left on board – but they come to bitterly regret their good deed when the situation turns dark and a fraught battle of wits ensues. Thriller, with Sam Neill. (1989)

THURSDAY

Meet Me in St Louis, Channel 4, 12.55pm

A job offer tempts a banker to consider uprooting his close-knit family and moving to New York. However, his wife and children struggle with the prospect of leaving their friends behind, and are horrified when they realise they might miss out on the 1904 St Louis World's Fair. Musical, starring Judy Garland. (1944)

FRIDAY

The Bourne Ultimatum, ITV1, 10.35pm

Amnesiac rogue assassin Jason Bourne's long-buried memories are reawakened by a British journalist researching the secret organisation who were responsible for transforming him into a killing machine. Meanwhile, a ruthless CIA director becomes convinced Bourne is still a high security risk, and plans to dispose of him once and for all. Third instalment of the spy thriller series, starring Matt Damon. (2007)

Pick of the Week

Noteworthy success of a smash-hit team

In 1984, after meeting Mike Stock and Matt Aitken, train-loving DJ, songwriter and music producer Pete Waterman thought they would help make a winning team. To say he was on the money is something of an understatement. New documentary

The Hit Factory: The Stock Aitken and Waterman Story (Monday, ITV1, 9pm) looks back on Britain's most successful pop producers, with the aid of their greatest hits.

One of their greatest successes was Kylie Minogue, the Neighbours star who proved she was more than just a pretty face. I Should Be So Lucky launched her music career and kick-started a wave of Aussie soap stars trying their hands at chart stardom. Dead or Alive enjoyed lucrative success, thanks to SAW's dance-floor filler You Spin Me Round, while established celebs such as Sinitta, Cliff Richard and the late Donna Summer also benefitted from the Midas touch of Mike, Matt and Pete. The trio went on to score more than 100 top 40 hits, and one of their biggest successes was with a man who witnessed their rise to fame, Rick Astley.

"I met Pete Waterman very early on when I was about 19, and I watched their company. Stock, Aitken and Waterman and everything go from just kind of hanging on by the skin of their teeth to becoming the biggest producers in Europe really," explains Rick. "And that's around the time when they were just starting to crack it, they were just beginning to have hit records, that's when I signed to them. I had no clue who they were."

Thanks to his hit single Never Gonna Give You Up, Rick was transformed from jobbing musician to overnight superstar. Aside from landing the number one slot 25 years ago (where it stayed for five weeks, and became the best selling UK single of 1987), it also topped the charts in 25 countries, including the United States. The video, helmed by The Expendables 2's Simon West, was broadcast all over the world, but more recently the song received a new lease of life thanks to the Internet phenomena of 'Rickrolling'.

Five years ago some wag thought it would be a good idea to post misleading Internet links which would re-direct viewers to Astley's classic tune.

They say there's no such thing as bad publicity, and in an age when the world started warming to instantly downloadable music, it wasn't long before one of Stock Aitken and Waterman's most famous tracks had achieved a new lease of life.

In 2012 the trio may be comfortably well off, but in the early days Rick wondered whether the company would survive. "I'm not saying they were talking about how they were going to pay the studio rent, but it felt like that at times," he laughs. "They were building something, and then a year-and-a-half later they'd got five records in the top 40 all the time." The rest, as they say, is pop history.

Aside from contributions from Pete Waterman, this show, narrated by Suranne Jones, also features Simon Cowell, Sinitta, Jason Donovan, Pete Burns, Sonia, Lamont Dozier, Kim Appleby and Steps.



Pete Waterman features in The Hit Factory: The Stock Aitken and Waterman Story, Monday, ITV1, 9pm

Best of the Rest

MONDAY

Olympics Tonight BBC1, 10.40pm

Gabby Logan and guests look back on day 10 at the London Games, and present live coverage of the sports still taking place. These include the men's basketball group match between Argentina and net favourites for the gold medal USA, and the men's super heavyweight boxing quarter-finals. The review of today's action includes a look at the women's artistic gymnastics, including the women's uneven bars discipline, which should have featured three-time world champion Beth Tweddle chasing the Olympic glory that had eluded her so far in her career. There were also high hopes for Team GB at the Olympic Stadium today, with world champion Dai Greene likely to be in contention in the men's 400m hurdles final.

TUESDAY

Trash to Treasure ITV1, 7.30pm

These days, ITV1 has a habit of airing documentaries that are just as much entertaining as they are informative - this latest one not being any exception. Alas, all good things must come to an end and in the penultimate episode of the series, new boss of Ribble Reclamation has his work cut out in trying to convince Dale that merging his demolition business with the yard will see the big bucks rolling in. Meanwhile, festival organizer Sophie has an unusual request of Trev and Lee at Beeston Reclamation, which leaves the brothers with no choice but to approach a rival supplier.

World's Tallest Towers

Channel 5, 8pm

It's a surreal sight standing a few feet from the Washington monument. The 150-foot patchwork quilt of bricks at the first section – the point where the money ran out in 1854 – followed by the rest of the sand-coloured obelisk is a sight to behold. Washington DC's iconic needle is just one of the structures featured in this one-off show, which also charts the construction of Canton Tower in Guangzhou, China. The programme-makers reveal how a series of engineering breakthroughs achieved in the creation of older structures made it possible. We see how advanced fire-fighting equipment protects the Chinese landmark against blazes, and cameras also focus on Paris' Eiffel Tower and Canada's CN Tower.

WEDNESDAY

Olympics 2012 BBC1, 7pm

Gary Lineker introduces this evening's athletics schedule at the Olympic Stadium. Having been born in east London, Perri Shakes-Drayton is very much a local favourite, and will surely be spurred on by the crowd if she has reached the 400m hurdles final. She went into the Games in good form, having recently run a new personal best at Crystal

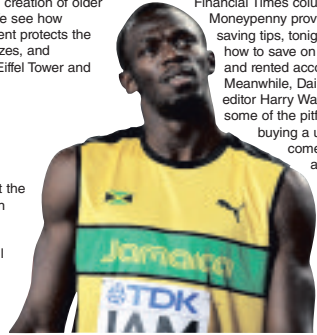
Palace that made her the second fastest Brit of all time behind 1992 Olympic gold medalist Sally Gunnell. However, the likes of Jamaicans Kaliese Spencer and Melaine Walker may still be too quick for her.

SuperScrippers

Channel 4, 8pm

The Government's latest figures show that we're in the longest double-dip recession for 50 years, so we're all having to be that little bit more careful and tighten our belts. But does saving money have to be dull? Of course not! Here, Financial Times columnist Mrs

Money Penny provides more cash-saving tips, tonight showing viewers how to save on childcare costs and rented accommodation. Meanwhile, Daily Telegraph retail editor Harry Wallop highlights some of the pitfalls associated with buying a used car as he comes to the rescue of a couple whose second-hand motor wouldn't even start. And two best friends from Manchester take on the £50 Challenge as they limit their grocery spending and fit out their dream home.



Olympics 2012, Thursday, BBC1, 7pm

THURSDAY

Olympics 2012 BBC1, 7pm

Gary Lineker presents this evening's athletics action from the Olympic Stadium, where Jamaicans Usain Bolt and Yohan Blake are expected to battle it out again in the 200m final. Bolt broke Michael Johnson's long-standing world record at the 2008 Games, and has since lowered that time even further in the following year's World Championships. However, he could face stiff opposition from Blake, who became the second-fastest man in history over the distance last year and further stated his credentials when beating Bolt at the 100m and 200m in the Jamaican trials.

FRIDAY

Olympics 2012 BBC1, 7pm

Gary Lineker resumes presenting duties once again for the penultimate night of athletics at the Olympic Stadium. If she has progressed this far, Great Britain's Hannah England will be hopeful of winning a medal in the women's 1500m final, having finished second in the World Championships last year. Her chances of at least matching that achievement were increased when pre-Games favourite Mariem Alaoui Selsouli was banned after testing positive for a banned substance. Should they have reached the final, there will also be hopes of a Team GB medal in the final of the men's 4x400m relay, although the USA will go into the race as hot favourites.

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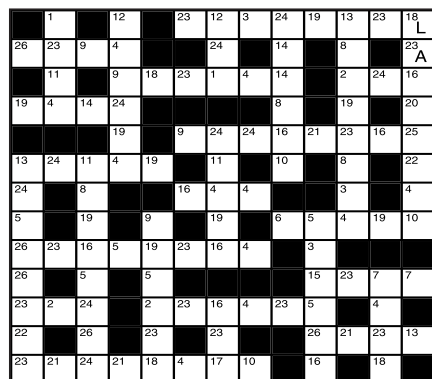
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Brain Gym

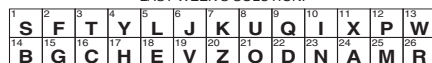
No.180

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:



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Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

Across

- Objects needed for the stage production are toys (10)
- 7 & 3 Dn. Aircraft schedules of use to surveyors (5-6)
- Used for keeping the light-ship stable? (7)
- They sit outside the court to give their decisions (8)
- Port is deserted (4)
- One with a classical story stare (6)
- Behold with unrestrained hate! (6)
- He's learned to provide some seasoning (4)
- Soft literary item is an insignificant piece (8)
- Shows contempt for aurora australis! (7)
- Put right guys in the advertisement (5)
- Inflicts a defeat on the board (10)

Quick Clues:

Across

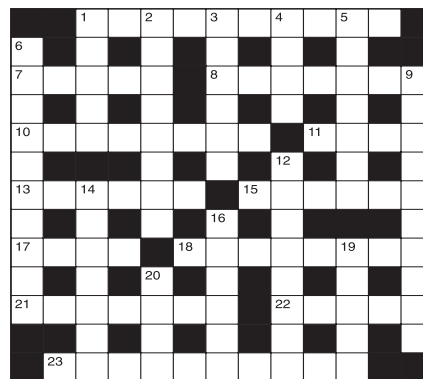
- Contemptuous (10)
- Artless (5)
- Maker (7)
- Impotent (8)
- Lampoon (4)
- Powerful (6)
- Golfer's striking position (6)
- Too (4)
- Insurrection (8)
- Big tent (7)
- Door-handles (5)
- Black magic (10)

Down

- Sea-dweller seen coming back in brown war-paint (5)
- Strong dislike for a certain rendering (8)
- See 7 Across
- Doing no work - it sounds like the image one may wish to cherish (4)
- Most solemn off-white underwear, we hear (7)
- Defenders who present a sorry story? (10)
- Name the exploits that prove right of possession (5-5)
- A business agreement for a kind of bridge (8)
- Wanton rush - I go all over the place (7)
- No free man would be held to this (6)
- They man ships for a sea-trip, one hears (5)
- A piece of research I considered fashionable (4)

Down

- Bore (5)
- Bulge (8)
- Approach (6)
- Requirement (4)
- Left (7)
- Zeal (10)
- Putrefaction (10)
- Afflicted (8)
- Aloofness (7)
- Ransom (6)
- Sarcasm (5)
- Cat-noise (4)



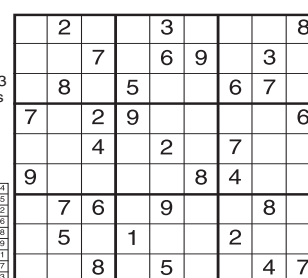
LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS:

CRYPTIC - Across: 6 Staying; 7 Moron; 9 Act; 10 Merriment; 12 Boxing-glove; 15 Disorganise; 17 Gem-cutter; 19 Imp; 21 Trips; 22 Witness. Down: 1 Stock; 2 Eye; 3 Anne; 4 Formalist; 5 Connaive; 8 Origin; 11 Horoscope; 13 Ingots; 14 Firearm; 16 Smash; 18 Evil; 20 One. QUICK - Across: 6 Attempt; 7 Bogus; 9 Din; 10 Exonerate; 12 New Year's Eve; 15 Dead certain; 17 Elucidate; 19 Roe; 21 Unite; 22 Acrobat. Down: 1 Strip; 2 Let; 3 Apex; 4 Courtship; 5 Furtive; 8 Intact; 11 Mendacity; 13 Yields; 14 Telling; 16 Total; 18 Tact; 20 Row.

Sudoku

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

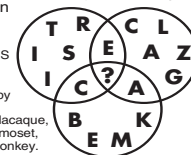
LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >



Circlegram

Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters within each circle can be arranged to form words on a common theme. What are the three words, and the letter represented by the question mark?

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION: The letter represented by the question mark is M. Macaque, mandrill, marmoset, all types of monkey.



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You want to buy a second-hand car.

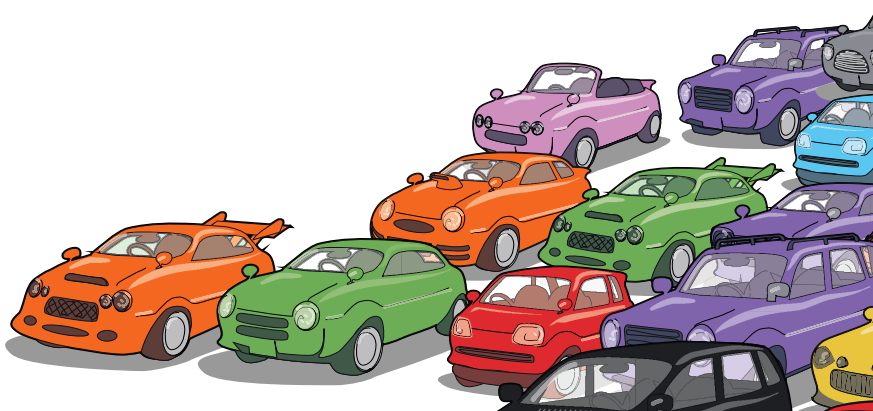
Just something that's fuel-efficient. But it needs a bit of **power** – your neighbourhood's quite **nilly** and your groceries can be so heavy. And it's nice to have an engine that **roars**.

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Pretty cottage in idyllic rural area

A BEAUTIFULLY presented and painstakingly restored semi-detached character cottage in Kinver is on the market priced at £229,950.

Dating from the 1830s the property in Enville Road has been comprehensively improved over the last 10 years by the current owners with the charm and character of the early Victorian period perfectly recaptured through the use of high quality solid oak joinery, Minton tiled flooring and leaded light glazed panels within.

Set back behind a wide gravelled driveway suitable for three cars the porch entrance leads into a reception hall with guest cloakroom featuring a high flush Victorian style suite.

An outstanding feature of the property is the brick inglenook fireplace in the lounge with tiled hearth and log burner, with exposed timber beams to the ceiling and over the fireplace.

The lounge, 17ft 3in by 11ft 11in, leads

through to a separate sitting room with an exposed brick fireplace while the kitchen - 10ft 9in by 10ft 6in - has handmade oak cabinets, two white enamelled Belfast sinks and range cooker in a brick surround.

On the first floor the master bedroom has a range of built-in wardrobes with solid oak doors and there are two other bedrooms, one with an en-suite shower cubicle.

Freestanding

The house bathroom has a freestanding claw foot bath set on a flagstone plinth as well as a pedestal wash basin and high cistern WC.

Outside the level rear gardens have a paved patio area leading onto a lawn with timber decked area to the rear as well as a greenhouse and log store.

Kinver itself has a wide range of amenities and is a sought after location for commuters to Stourbridge and the wider West Midlands conurbation.

Call Allan Morris and Jones on 01562 747755.



This 1830s semi-detached cottage in Kinver has been carefully restored



The rear garden includes a decked area, beds, lawn and greenhouse



The brick-built open fireplace in the lounge forms a focal point for the room

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<div>HALESOWEN</div> <div></div> <div>Lansdowne Road</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">* Large detached house* extensive ground floor accommodation* four bedrooms* good sized rear garden* no upward chain* must be viewed to fully appreciate</div> <div>£279,950</div>	<div>OLDBURY</div> <div></div> <div>Squirrels Hollow</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">* Detached bungalow* Three bedrooms* Conservatory* Side Garage* Pleasant rear garden* Bathroom and En-suite</div> <div>Offers in the region of £259,950</div>	<div>HALESOWEN</div> <div></div> <div>Hawne Lane</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">* Much improved Semi Detached House* Re-planned accommodation* Living * Dining kitchen* Refitted bathroom * Cloakroom* Three Bedrooms* Exceptionally Large Sized Rear Garden</div> <div>Offers in the region of £259,950</div>	<div>HALESOWEN</div> <div></div> <div>Middlefield Avenue</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">* Detached bungalow* Two Bedrooms* Bathroom with shower cubicle* Side Garage* Rear Garden with open aspect* No upward chain</div> <div>Offers in the region of £184,950</div>	<div>ROWLEY REGIS</div> <div></div> <div>Blackheath 27, 27a, 28 & 28a High Street</div> <div><p>Retail/residential property investment in a High Street location comprising two lock up shops and a one bedroom and a bedsit flat.</p></div> <div>Offers in the region of £190,000</div>	<div>HALESOWEN</div> <div></div> <div>51 Stourbridge Road</div> <div><p>TWO STOREY OFFICE PREMISES</p><p>The premises comprise: Ground Floor: Two offices and kitchen. First Floor: Two/three offices and full sized shower room. Outside: Small enclosed yard. Area of land suitable as parking space.</p></div> <div>Offers in the region of £140,000</div>	<div>STOURBRIDGE Hagley</div> <div></div> <div>74 Worcester Road</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">* Detached office building* extremely well-presented* prominent position & good location* private parking/nr railway station* gas boiler/radiator heating* nia: 185.67 sq.m. (1,996.81 sq.ft.)</div> <div>Annual rent Of £25,000</div>
<div>HALESOWEN</div> <div></div> <div>Firth Park Crescent</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">* Detached house* Three bedrooms* Two reception rooms* Integral garage* No upward chain</div> <div>Offers in the region of £164,950</div>	<div>BIRMINGHAM Selly Oak</div> <div></div> <div>Shenley Fields Road</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">* Semi detached house* three bedrooms* kitchen/dining room* conservatory* off road parking</div> <div>Offers in excess of £150,000</div>	<div>OLDBURY</div> <div></div> <div>Radnor Road</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">* Extended end of terrace house* Two bedrooms* Through lounge* Kitchen/breakfast room* Bathroom * Shower/wetroom* Good size garden</div> <div>Offers in the region of £105,000</div>	<div>HALESOWEN</div> <div></div> <div>Edward Road</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">* End of terrace house* Two bedrooms* Lounge * Kitchen* Some modernisation required* Good size garden* Driveway parking</div> <div>Offers in the region of £85,000</div>	<div>CRADLEY HEATH</div> <div></div> <div>102a Station Road</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">* Substantial storage space* Mezzanine floor and several offices* Cold store* Fully enclosed front and rear yards* Excellent security system* GIA: 794.49 sq.m. (8,548.66 sq.ft.)</div> <div>Annual rent Of £20,000</div>	<div>HALESOWEN</div> <div></div> <div>14 Peckingham Street</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">* For sale/to let* suitable for a1/a2 use* town centre position* well-presented* opposite post office/near car park* nia 70.37 sqm (757 sqft)</div> <div>Annual rent Of £12,000</div>	<div>BRIERLEY HILL</div> <div></div> <div>Quarry Bank 22b High Street</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">* Ground Floor Lock-up Shop* Main Road Local Position* Close to Merry Hill Shopping Centre* Good-sized store room to rear* Rear loading/unloading facility* Available now</div> <div>Annual rent Of £5,000</div>

View from apartments quite simply a cut above



Two-bedroom apartments at The Laurels, Tamworth, look out onto a picturesque canal setting

PURCHASERS at David Wilson Mercia's The Laurels development in Fazeley will not only be able to secure a high quality new home, but a high quality home with a waterside view over the Birmingham and Fazeley canal.

"Our two-bedroom Grazier apartments at The Laurels are situated right where the Birmingham and Fazeley canal meet the Coventry canal which makes the views from some of these apartments very special.

"These Grazier apartments are great as a first home for young couples looking to get their foot onto the property ladder or couples looking to downsize to a smaller more manageable property.

These apartments benefit from the best in open plan living, with a spa-

cious living/kitchen/dining area, two double bedrooms, one with an en-suite, and a separate bathroom. All the apartments feature a balcony plus an allocated parking space.

The Laurels is conveniently located close to Tamworth's town centre which provides purchasers with a wealth of shops, restaurants, wine bars and cafes.

Numerous

Sutton Coldfield is only a stone's throw away as well as attractions such as Drayton Manor Park & Zoo, Tamworth Snowdome indoor ski centre and the exclusive Belfry Hotel & Golf Club. It's also home to numerous outstanding schools and colleges.

"If you are looking for an apartment in the Fazeley area come and visit us to find out about our Grazier apartments. We also have a great range of four-bedroom homes available at The Laurels and there are different

schemes which will help make the move to your new David Wilson home as smooth as can be.

"Our properties are selling fast at The Laurels and it would be a shame to miss out on a great new home and terrific views."

The two-bedroom Grazier apartments are priced at £135,000. For more information please call the sales centre on 01827 285834 open daily between 10am and 5pm.

Alternatively, please call the sales hotline on 0844 811 3322 open seven days a week from 8am to 9pm or log on to www.dwh.co.uk

David Wilson Mercia was confirmed as meriting the maximum five star official rating from the Home Builders Federation (HBF).

The news was announced after more than 20,000 new home buyers across the country took part in this year's HBF customer satisfaction survey.

Land near village on the market



The land at Hinksford Lane, Swindon is for sale with Madeleys surveyors

A SOUGHT after parcel of land has come to the market in South Staffordshire, which is to be sold by private treaty.

Madeleys Chartered Surveyors are selling the 5.91 acre block of land at Hinksford Lane, Swindon in between Kingswinford and Wombourne. The land is for sale as a whole by private treaty.

Located just south of Swindon village boundary, the land is in a very convenient location for access from the A449, Kidderminster to Wolverham-

pton road, and from Dudley. The land is easily accessed from both Worcestershire and Shropshire, which are all within a couple of miles. Access to the land is taken directly off Swindon Road, the B4178, via a tarmacadam driveway.

Any use of the land, such as grazing livestock and horses, would be ideal due to the light nature of the free draining soil, and because mains water is available.

The land is currently laid down to pasture land with a sympathetic

scheme of restoration having been undertaken by the previous owners to create a haven for plants and wildlife. Trees have been planted near the boundaries of the land which makes for a secluded parcel of land. Trees are situated along the boundary against the road which creates an excellent screen from the road, but also provides shelter.

For more information please contact Angela Roberts MRICS FAIV at Madeleys Chartered Surveyors on 01952 727 007.

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HALESOWEN, SHENSTONE VALLEY ROAD
A three bedroom end terrace house on a large corner plot comprising of: Two Double Bedrooms and One Single, Two Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazed, Electric Garage Doors and Driveway for several Vehicles. A Versatile Family Home. Not to be Missed. Available Immediately.
£750 PCM



ROWLEY REGIS, DOVEY GROVE
An unfurnished three storey townhouse, in a quiet cul-de-sac, briefly comprising of: Through Lounge/Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, All with En-Suites, House Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Garage and Driveway, Rear Garden.
£725 PCM



HALESOWEN, JIMARA, FELDON LANE
Situated in Halesowen/Blackheath, is this extended traditional semi-detached house with plenty of space. Comprising of: Large Living Room, Separate Dining Room, Study, Two Double Bedrooms, One Large Single Bedroom, House Bathroom with Shower, Gaily Kitchens with Appliances, Separate Utility Room, Downstairs WC, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Large Driveway for 3 Cars.
£725 PCM



ROWLEY REGIS, PEARTREE DRIVE
Situated in a quiet cul-de-sac and close to the M5, is this modern unfurnished detached house, comprising of: Two Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen, Downstairs WC, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Master Bedroom with En-Suite, Garage and Driveway Parking, Gardens.
£650 PCM



HALESOWEN, WASSELL ROAD
A stunning unfurnished 3-storey cottage style mid terrace property comprising of: 3 Bedrooms with Wardrobes, Master En-suite with Free Standing Bath of the Art, Bath and Separate Shower, 2 Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen, Shower Room, Private Rear Garden with Super Decking surrounded by Herbaceous Border. Parking for one vehicle at Front of Property. Not to be missed! Available Mid-September.
£625 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH, MANSON DRIVE
This Three Storey Townhouse Located within a Short Distance of Old Hill Train Station Comprises of: Two Double Bedrooms, One Single Bedroom, Fitted Kitchen, Spacious Lounge, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Downstairs Shower Room, Three En Suites, Bathroom with a Shower, Garage and Driveway Parking, Rear garden.
£600 PCM



HALESOWEN, FOXHOLLIES DRIVE
Part Furnished to suit Semi Detached House Located on a quiet Cul-De-Sac. Comprising of: Three Bedrooms, Living Room, Fitted Dining Kitchen, Bathroom with shower, Gas central heating, Front & Rear Gardens, Driveway Parking.
£595 PCM



HALESOWEN, WHITEFRIARS DRIVE
An unfurnished or part furnished modern semi detached house close to town centre, briefly comprising of: Two Bedrooms, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Driveway Parking, Gardens.
£575 PCM



HALESOWEN, FATHERLESS BARN CRESCENT
A very well presented semi-detached house, in a sought after area for Colley Lane Primary School and bus links and with great views from the rear bedrooms, comprising of: Large Living Room, Fitted Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Family Bathroom with Shower, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Front and Rear Gardens, Driveway for Two Cars.
£550 PCM



DUDLEY, STOURBRIDGE ROAD
A beautifully presented unfurnished detached house close to Russells Hall Hospital, Dudley and Merry Hill Shopping Centre. Comprising of: Through Lounge/Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Gas central heating, Double Glazing, Garage and Driveway, Rear Garden.
£550 PCM



HALESOWEN, BANNERS STREET
A mid terrace property which has been refurbished, comprises of: Two Double Bedrooms, Brand New Fitted Kitchen, Two Reception Rooms, White Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Large Garden with Decking Area, On Road Parking, Available Immediately.
£495 PCM



HALESOWEN, SUNBURY ROAD
Being ideally located on a quiet cul-de-sac and within walking distance to local shops and bus routes to Halesowen and Stourbridge. Also within the catchment area for Windsor High School. Comprising of: One Double and One Single Bedroom, Spacious Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, House Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Driveway Parking.
£495 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH, HALAS COURT
An unfurnished third floor apartment, close to local shops, train station, and bus routes, briefly comprising of: Lounge, Fitted Kitchen with Appliances, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Communal Gardens, Electronic Gates leading to Secure Parking Area, Internal Inspection Recommended.
£495 PCM



HALESOWEN, VICTORIA COURT
A Two Bedroomed Second Floor Flat Having Accommodation including Hall, Generous Lounge With Balcony Off Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom With Jacuzzi, Double Glazing And Storage Heating, Communal Gardens.
£495 PCM



HALESOWEN, MANOR LANE
A furnished flat above shop, briefly comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Living Room, Large Fitted Kitchen, Double Bedroom, Shower Room, Secure Parking.
£475 PCM



HALESOWEN, SHENSTONE FLATS
An unfurnished second floor flat, close to local shops and bus routes, briefly comprising of: Two Bedrooms, Gas Central Heating, Living Room, Kitchen and Storage Area, Bathroom with Shower, Communal Garden, Parking.
£450 PCM



HALESOWEN, BRETT YOUNG CLOSE
Situated within a few minutes walk of Halesowen Town Centre and local bus station for buses into Birmingham Town Centre is this well presented first floor apartment, comprising of: One Double Bedroom, Fitted Kitchen with Integrated Appliances, House Bathroom with Shower, Cray Lounge, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating and One Allocated Parking Space.
£450 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH, ELBOW STREET
Situated in a quiet location, within walking distance to Old Hill town and local train station is this unfurnished first floor flat, comprising of: Electric Storage Heating, Large Living Room, Fitted Kitchen, One Double Bedroom, Bathroom with Shower, Communal Gardens, Allocated Parking.
£450 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH, HALESOWEN ROAD
This value for money part-furnished terraced house, close to Old Hill town centre and Old Hill train station, briefly comprising of: Two Bedrooms and One with Fitted Wardrobes, Gas Central Heating, Two Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen with Appliances, Downstairs Bathroom with Shower, On Road Parking, NO REAR GARDEN.
£400 PCM



BRIERLEY HILL, FOXDALE DRIVE
Situated in a quiet location and within walking distance to Brierley Hill town centre and a short drive or bus to Merry Hill Shopping Centre is this ground floor apartment, comprising of: One Double Bedroom and One Single, Fitted Kitchen, House Bathroom with Shower, Spacious Lounge, Electric Heating, Double Glazing, One Allocated Parking Space.
£395 PCM



HALESOWEN, APPERLEY WAY
Located on the popular development of the Homer Hill Estate, is this spacious first floor apartment, briefly comprising of: Living Room, Fitted Kitchen, Double Bedroom, Bathroom with Shower, Communal Gardens, Allocated Parking.
£375 PCM

MOTING NEWS AND REVIEWS

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Your essential guide to the world of motoring compiled by Motoring Editor Sharon Walters

Audi's engineers create a king of the off-road

IF YOU have deep pockets and need a large estate car with four-wheel drive, the option to meander off-road and a quality brand, there is only one option and that is the new Audi A6 Allroad.

Audi has honed 4-wheel drive quattro drive trains to perfection and the A6 Allroad

By Bob Hickman

with air suspension is a dependable, go anywhere product. This is the seventh generation and it differs from its sibling, the Avant estate, in several ways.

It has flared wings front and rear and stainless steel underguards at the front and the back of the vehicle. The wheel arches, bumpers, and extended sills are a contrasting colour, although you can order body coloured paintwork.

The A6 has

extended use of aluminium for its body, this reduces weight and decreases running costs. Audi suggests that by this, and the engineers tweaking the engine derivatives, possibly 20 per cent lower emissions have been achieved.

The designers have smoothed the exterior and made it look not so much an off-roader as more a Grand Tourer. The interior of the new vehicle is typically Audi, with an air of quality that makes it superb to be cocooned in. It is curvaceous, it is luxurious: the leather, the stitching and the pipe work were all perfect.

The instrumentation is complex and involved, but if this was to be your Grand Tourer or your office you would soon become used to it. There is plenty of space and the ability to adjust the steering wheel and driver's seat means almost any size driver will be able to get comfortable.

Generous

The rear of the vehicle is comfy – two huge six-footers could fit without problems. Boot space is generous and there are points to attach straps or a cargo net.

The 60/40 split seats can expand the capacity, however they don't fold completely flat and are a bit awkward if you have huge amounts of luggage to move.

The Allroad's major attraction is its off-road facility and the wonderful air suspension which allows you to raise or lower the vehicle depending on the terrain. It can drop by 15mm for high speed motoring and gain 35 mm at the push of a button when you go off-road and need clearance. It has a hill descent function which will limit the speed depending on the surface.

The power options are four V6 engines (3-litre V6 petrol or three V6 diesels) also 3-litre with power outputs ranging from 201 to 306bhp. Audi engineers have worked hard and the 3-litre diesel entry-level 204 bhp has claimed fuel figures in the mid 40s and 159gm of CO2. The transmission is a dual clutch automatic seven-speed, available with optional paddles on the steering wheel.

Quattro means permanent four-wheel drive and this tells you the vehicle dynamics are going to be excellent with a reassuring feel in a variety of conditions. If this vehicle hardly ventures off road other than a

slightly damp field, it won't be exploiting its true potential. The opportunity to try two Allroad models back-to-back was a really good comparison. Both were 3-litre diesels – a 313bhp and a more comfortable 245 bhp.

Both had automatic transmissions and the performance from both engines was very similar. The higher performance engine leapt forward and required less gear changing for overtakes but there wasn't a hugely discernible difference.

Both vehicles performed admirably on slippery roads and the small tracks that we ventured on showed that Audi's four-wheel drive system is superb.

Audi are the masters of spacing up and the extras list can be horrific.

The on-road price of the 3-litre 245bhp vehicle that we tested was £44,690 on the road but the actual vehicle we drove would have needed a cheque for £65,000.

The A6 Allroad will attract purchasers who like the brand, the ambience of its interior, the quality of its manufacture and like a vehicle that is understated.

The A6 Allroad range varies in price from £43,150 to £49,445.



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REPRESENTATIVE EXAMPLE – JAZZ 1.2 SE MANUAL incl. Metallic		Total Amount of Credit	£7,835.75
36 Monthly Payments (Duration 37 mths)	£129.40	Option to Purchase Fee	£65
On The Road Price (Cash price)	£12,055*	Credit Acceptance Fee	£125
Customer Deposit	£3,719.25	Total Amount Payable	£13,333.78
Deposit including £500 contribution	£4,219.25	Interest Rate per Annum	6.05%
Final Payment (inc Option to Purchase Fee)	£4,456.13	Representative APR	6.9%

Contract mileage 6000 miles p/a. Total 18500 excess mileage charge 2.22 pence per excess plus vat.

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REPRESENTATIVE EXAMPLE – CIVIC 1.4i-VTEC SE MANUAL		Total Amount of Credit	£11,922.74
36 Monthly Payments (Duration 37 mths)	£199	Option to Purchase Fee	£65
On The Road Price (Cash price)	£17,455*	Credit Acceptance Fee	£125
Customer Deposit	£4,032.26	Total Amount Payable	£19,399.39
Deposit including £1,500 contribution	£5,532.26	Interest Rate per Annum	6.05%
Final Payment (inc Option to Purchase Fee)	£6,703.13	Representative APR	6.9%

Contract mileage 6000 miles p/a. Total 18500 excess mileage charge 5.39 pence per excess plus vat.

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 contribution | upgrade

REPRESENTATIVE EXAMPLE – CR-V 2.0 EX incl. metallic paint		Total Amount of Credit	£16,913.00
36 Monthly Payments (Duration 37 mths)	£283.51	Option to Purchase Fee	£65
On The Road Price (Cash price)	£28,540*	Credit Acceptance Fee	£125
Customer Deposit	£7,607.00	Total Amount Payable	£28,766.79
Deposit including £1,500 contribution	£9,107.00	Interest Rate per Annum	6.05%
Final Payment (inc Option to Purchase Fee)	£9,453.43	Representative APR	6.9%

Contract mileage 6000 miles p/a. Total 18500 excess mileage charge 5.39 pence per excess plus vat.

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Fuel consumption figures for Honda range in mpg (l/100km): Urban Cycle 23.2 - 61.4 (12.2 - 4.6), Extra Urban 40.4 - 67.3 (7.0 - 4.2), Combined 32.5 - 64.2 (8.7 - 4.4). CO2 emissions: 201 - 101gk/m.

Model shown: Jazz 1.4 VTEC SE Manual in Alabaster Silver Metallic at £14,200 including metallic paint. Terms and Conditions: New retail Jazz and Jazz Hybrid registrations (excluding Jazz Si) from 2 July to 30 September 2012. Subject to model and colour availability. Offers applicable at participating dealers and are at the promoter's absolute discretion. Honda Aspirations (PCP): Example shown based on annual mileage of 10,000. Excess mileage charge: 5p per mile. You do not have to pay the Final Payment if you return the car at the end of the agreement and you have paid all other amounts due, the vehicle is in good condition and has been serviced in accordance with the Honda service book and the maximum annual mileage of 10,000 has not been exceeded. Indemnities may be required in certain circumstances. Finance is only available to persons aged 18 or over, subject to status. All figures are correct at time of publication but may be subject to change. *On The Road price includes metallic paint. Model shown: Civic 1.4 VTEC SE Manual in Alabaster Silver Metallic at £17,455 including metallic paint. Terms and Conditions: New retail Civic registrations from 2 July to 30 September 2012. Subject to model and colour availability. Offers applicable at participating dealers and are at the promoter's absolute discretion. Honda Aspirations (PCP): Example shown based on annual mileage of 10,000. Excess mileage charge: 5p per mile. You do not have to pay the Final Payment if you return the car at the end of the agreement and you have paid all other amounts due, the vehicle is in good condition and has been serviced in accordance with the Honda service book and the maximum annual mileage of 10,000 has not been exceeded. Indemnities may be required in certain circumstances. Finance is only available to persons aged 18 or over, subject to status. All figures are correct at time of publication but may be subject to change. *On The Road price includes metallic paint. Model shown: CR-V 2.0 VTEC EX Manual in Alabaster Silver Metallic at £26,020 On The Road including metallic paint and saving of £2,520 on retail On The Road price. Terms & Conditions: New retail CR-V registrations from 2 July to 30 September 2012. Offers applicable at participating dealers and are at the promoter's absolute discretion. Complimentary upgrade: CR-V EX models available for the On The Road price of equivalent ES-T model – discount of £2,520 inc VAT will be applied to retail invoice. Honda Aspirations (PCP): Example shown based on annual mileage of 10,000. Excess mileage charge: 5p per mile. You do not have to pay the Final Payment if you return the car at the end of the agreement and you have paid all other amounts due, the vehicle is in good condition and has been serviced in accordance with the Honda service book and the maximum annual mileage of 10,000 has not been exceeded. Indemnities may be required in certain circumstances. Finance is only available to persons aged 18 or over, subject to status. All figures are correct at time of publication but may be subject to change. *On The Road price includes metallic paint. CALLS CHARGED AT LOCAL RATE.



A flat underfloor and sculptured wheel-arches have smoothed the air flow under the CR-V

Honda's new CR-V is set for showrooms in the autumn

HONDA has revealed images and further information on the new European CR-V due to be launched in the UK this October.

For the first time, the CR-V will be offered with a choice of both two- and four-wheel drive on the 2.0 i-VTEC model, while improvements to the petrol and 2.2 i-DTEC diesel engines have achieved a significant reduction in carbon dioxide emissions.

The new CR-V will be in UK showrooms from October 2012 and it will

continue to be built at Honda's production facility in Swindon.

With the rear seats folded flat, the boot capacity of the CR-V has grown by 148 litres to 1,648 litres and with the seats folded up, the boot capacity is a capacious 589 litres.

The load length has been increased by 140mm to 1,570mm, while the height of the load lip has been reduced by 25mm to make it easier to load heavy or awkward items. The boot of the CR-V can now accommodate two mountain bikes or four sets of golf clubs.

The addition of a keyless entry system and the power tailgate make it

easier to use the boot space and improves its practicality.

Within Honda's global CR-V line-up, this power tailgate is unique to the European market.

Adoption of a flat underfloor and sculptured wheel-arches have smoothed the air flow under the car, while a longer roof combined with aerodynamically optimised front bumper and rear spoiler help to manage the air flow over the body.

The result is a reduction in the drag coefficient by 6.5 per cent compared with the current CR-V to the benefit of performance, fuel consumption and exhaust emissions.

Leon first to show new Seat badge

SEAT has released pictures of the all-new Leon, which the company hopes will take the fight to its fast-advancing rivals.

At 5cm shorter than the outgoing model but with a wheelbase almost 6cm longer, the wheels are noticeably closer to the corners of the car to provide a more purposeful stance.

The architecture is the Volkswagen Group's lightweight MQB platform.

It shares the frontal design of the reshaped Ibiza that was released some

months ago, but the Seat badge is new and the third-generation Leon is the first of the company's cars to wear it.

Despite its shorter proportions, more intelligent packaging means that there is more rear legroom and around 40 litres more boot space than before. At the same time, the car's overall weight is claimed to be 90kg less.

Early indications suggest that the Leon will be launched towards the end of the year with a choice of 1.6- and 2.0-litre diesel engines, with the range expanding into 1.2-, 1.4- and 1.8-litre turbocharged TSI petrol engines in

early 2013. Power outputs will range from 85bhp to 178bhp, with fuel economy of up to 74mpg.

Five- and six-speed manual gearboxes will feature according to model, with six- and seven-speed twin-clutch DSG gearboxes either optional or standard according to model and engine choice.

Seat's Easy Connect infotainment system will manage the car's interactive systems, and will be available in three formats with an increasing number of speakers and breadth of functionality.



More rear legroom and boot space is promised from the third generation Seat Leon

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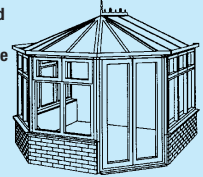
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King's bid for title is over after one race

BIRMINGHAM speedway skipper Danny King's British title bid ended after just one ride.

The Selco Brummies leader took a heavy fall in heat two traffic at Monmore Green.

He suffered rib and coccyx damage and is a big doubt for tonight's crunch Elite League match at Perry Barr against Swindon at 7.30pm.

To add insult to injury, King was disqualified from the rerun.

He bravely came out for his next ride, but was clearly in pain and pulled over. King withdrew from last night's Great Britain versus Australia Test match at Poole.

Team-mate Ben Barker, who wouldn't rank Monmore as his favourite circuit but has become increasingly effective there, put in a fine performance to score 11 points. He earned a semi-final spot but was eliminated in fourth place.

Brummies' Josh Auty had an erratic night, starting with a tapes disqualification and then wiping out Rob Mear with an ill-judged challenge in heat five.

Coventry's Scott Nicholls took a record-breaking seventh title ahead of team-mate Chris Harris with home hope Tai Woffinden third.

Brummies overcome Belle Vue

Birmingham Brummies 54 Belle Vue Aces 41

BEN BARKER scored a sensational six-ride paid maximum to lead the Brummies to victory over struggling Belle Vue.

Birmingham lost reserve Tomasz Piszcz to concussion and neck pains following an horrific heat two spill.

Piszcz is now out of hospital but expected to be out of action for six weeks.

Barker and Danny King combined for 5-1s in heats three and five to help their side to an 11-point lead.

Belle Vue hit back with Craig Cook and Rory Schlein winning tactical rides for double points, but it was not enough.

Birmingham: Ben Barker 17+1, Danny King 14+2, Bjørn Pedersen 13, Joe Screen 7+1, Martin Smolinski 5+2, Tomasz Piszcz 0.

Belle Vue: Rory Schlein 14+1, Craig Cook 12+1, Renat Gafurov 9, Alex Dryml 4+1, Ty Proctor 2+1, Mark Lemon 0.

Boxing Hall of Fame is coming to Brum

by Craig Birch

BRITAIN'S Boxing Hall of Fame is set to come to Birmingham next year in a plan which could leave a legacy for the sport in the Second City.

The BBHoF have vowed to have a museum up and running by the time they stage a week-long boxing festival in Birmingham next August.

Co-founders Ken Purchase and Marcus Anderson both have West Midlands links.

Purchase, 58, is formerly of Fordhouses, Wolverhampton and now lives in Telford while business partner Anderson, 42, is Smethwick-born.

The two have the next 12 months planned out for the BBHoF's maiden voyage into Birmingham, starting with a museum that will stay in the city.

They are currently seeking a site but memorabilia shouldn't be a problem, through the 25 ambassadors that are putting their name to the BBHoF.

The likes of John H Stracey, Jane Couch MBE, Richie Woodhall, David Price, Matthew Hatton, Scott Quigg and Anthony Colla are all on the list.

Anderson said: "It's all about boxing, we are looking to bring the sport back home and we have worked on this for a while."

"We have never had a Boxing Hall of Fame in Birmingham, people have played at it but it's never been done properly."

"We are looking for premises or land in Birmingham City Centre where we can

erect a purpose-built museum.

"We have got a lot of memorabilia already and people are still giving us stuff, so by next summer we should be ready."

"It would be nice to have the museum open during the festival week and it will be staying in Birmingham."

"There will also be a grass roots foundation under our banner, which will be raising money for amateur boxing."

"We want people to know that Birmingham is the home of the British Boxing Hall of Fame."

The festival of boxing will take place in the last week of August, 2013, at the International Convention Centre.

It will run day and night from Monday onwards with exhibitions at the ICC before

the evening events begin. Two awards dinners will take place, firstly a ceremony to honour active fighters on the Thursday.

Saturday's offering will see the formal induction of boxing figures into the Hall of Fame for the 'Class of 2012.'

The most ambitious attraction is Friday's 'Fight Night,' a fully professional show with a title fight at the top of the bill.

Anderson has opened negotiations for a British, European or even world title fight to serve as the main event.

He said: "The Hattons are pitching for that but we will be opening it up to Frank Warren, Frank Maloney and Eddie Hearn."

"It's a pro show and we want either a big title fight. If we could get a world title fight, we would be over the moon."

Baggies dominate but lack the winning touch

ALBION dominated this match, despite missing a host of star names.

The Baggies had to make do with a goalless draw at Oakwell after failing to convert possession into clear goalscoring chances, *writes Steve Madeley.*

But Steve Clarke's men made the running despite the new head coach leaving Steven Reid, Gareth McAuley, Liam Ridgewell, Youssouf Mulumbu, Marc-Antoine Fortune and Peter Odemwingie at home with injured captain Chris Brunt and Blackburn target Simon Cox.

Clarke decided a morning of training was better for the group, many of whom had played extended spells in the friendlies in Malmo and Copenhagen last week.

The Scot, who saw goalkeeper Ben Foster play for the first time in pre-season, said: "We passed the ball well at times. We also defended well."

"The disappointment was maybe, with the possession we had, that we didn't create enough chances."

Impressed

Clarke saw attacking favourite Zoltan Gera complete his first 45 minutes as he began his comeback from a cruciate ligament injury.

Jonas Olsson played the whole game, and midfielder duo James Morrison and Graham Dorrans impressed in 90-minute run-outs.

Albion went close when Hurst was sent tumbling 25 yards from goal and Dorrans connected with a goal-bound free-kick, but Ben Alnwick made a smart flying save.

There was a scare at the other end when a sprawling Foster failed to gather a Jim

Barnsley 0 Albion 0

O'Brien cross and Chris Dagnall saw his follow-up effort deflect off a sliding Olsson and hit the upright.

Early in the second half Alnwick twice denied Albion, first making a low block from Dorrans and then scrambling to keep out an effort by substitute Yassine El Ghanassy.

Albion should have taken the lead with 25 minutes to go but Jerome Thomas's cross was glanced against the post by Shane Long.

■ Two goals from Saido Berahino helped a young Albion XI to a 4-1 victory at Stockport. Midfielders Sam Mantom and George Thorpe also found the target.

Barnsley (4-3-3): Alnwick; Stones, Foster, McNulty, Wiseman; Digby, Dawson, O'Brien; Mellis, Dagnall, Etlhu. **Subs:** Silva, Mido, Done, Perkins, Edwards, Martin, Traist.

Albion (4-4-1-1): Foster; Jara Reyes, Tamas, Olsson, Jones; Hurst (Foolke, 85), Morrison, Dorrans, Thomas (Allan, 78); Gera (El Ghanassy, HT); Long (Berahino, 78). **Subs not used:** Gayle, Mantom, Thorpe, Myhill (GK).

Referee: Bobby Madley (West Yorkshire). **Attendance:** 2,143.

Showjumping sisters win international honours

SISTERS from the Black Country are jumping for joy after winning medals at a top international pony jumping competition.

Mia and Neve Gill, of Stone Cross in West Bromwich, both came back with medals after representing England at the contest in Ireland.

Eleven-year-old Mia scooped a bronze medal in the team jumping event, while Neve, aged eight, came home with a gold medal in the team of four jumping event.

The pair competed in Cavan, Ireland, taking their ponies Lucy and Merrylegs with them, while pony Elmer stayed at home for a well-earned rest.

Proud mother Julie Gill, a receptionist, said: "I'm really proud of them, they did very well."

"They both came home with medals and big smiles."

The girls have been riding for up to five years but showjumping for just two.

They have already qualified for the prestigious forthcoming British Showjumping Scope festival, which will be held in Staffordshire later in the month.



Mia Gill, aged 11, and sister Neve, eight, from Swallow Vale Stables, Aldridge

No win for Heathens as old boy victorious

FORMER Heathen Kyle Newman emerged victorious at Dudley's FAST Golden Hammer event at Monmore Wood.

But there was disappointment for the sizeable home crowd as no Heathens riders took to the rostrum.

Home hope Ashley Morris pulled off a sublime move in his penultimate ride to go from third to first on the final lap against major contenders Simon Lambert and Ashley Birks and set himself up for victory.

However, he missed the start in heat 17 and finished at the back while Newman, who had been just one point behind Morris secured the title. Stoke duo Lambert and Birks then won their final rides to take second and third place respectively on countback.

Pre-meeting favourite Adam Roynon suffered two falls. Brendan Johnson lifted and smashed into the inflatable safety fence at the start of heat six, taking out one of the support posts.

Scores: Kyle Newman 13, Simon Lambert 12, Ashley Birks 12, Ashley Morris 11, Tom Perry 10, Adam Roynon 9, Byron Bekker 9, Todd Kurtz 9, Cameron Kepp 8, Dan Greenwood 6, Lee Smart 6, Ben Reade 5, Darryl Ritchings 4, Brendan Johnson 3, James White Williams 2, Jaime Pickard 0.

England in netball date at LG Arena

INTERNATIONAL netball is returning to the LG Arena in Birmingham.


England faces Jamaica on September 21 in the first of a three-match series. The second match is in Liverpool three days later, and the third in Sheffield, on September 26.

Following a convincing 3-0 series win in April against Barbados, England will be looking to maintain their No.3 world ranking against Jamaica, fourth.

There has been a big rivalry between England and Jamaica, with vital matches at the Commonwealth Games 2010 in Delhi and the World Netball Championships 2011 in Singapore both going England's way, securing bronze medals at both competitions.

Tickets cost £20 (children £14). Details from www.theticketfactory.com or 0844 338 8000.

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SPORT

Jump for joy
Sisters get medals
at pony event
Page 39



Give us a goal
Albion dominate, but
lack the final touch
Page 39

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Good start but fading Old Hill lose out

Moseley 240-6, Old Hill 152.
Moseley won by 88 runs

OLD HILL took an early wicket in this Birmingham League Division One match but then faded.

They struck with the score on six but could not claim another wicket until Moseley had reached 89.

The visitors finished on 240-6. In reply, Old Hill lost both openers with just 15 on the board. They tried to stay at the crease and reach the losing draw figure, but were eventually all out for 152.

Moseley 231, Old Hill 165-5.
Draw

Old Hill seconds were initially in the driving seat as they prevented Moseley from keeping together a good scoring partnership.

But 78 not out by Tim Holland, batting at No 5, turned the game despite four wickets for Dan Such and two apiece for Bilal Mohammed and Humais Butt. Old Hill batted well in reply but could not reach the scoring rate required.

Martley 115, Old Hill 117-1.
Old Hill won by nine wickets

Chris Round claimed 6-28 as Old Hill thirds beat Martley. Round struck after Omar Lewis had taken the first two wickets. Tom Genders' 77 not out ensured Old Hill reached the target in comfort.

Old Hill 130, Martley 74.
Old Hill won by 56 runs

The fourths lost an early wicket, but recovered to win. Rob Lloyd made 22 not out and some useful partnerships saw Old Hill reach 130.

It didn't look enough, but superb bowling from Irshad Ahmed, who took 4-13 off his 11 overs, helped dismiss Martley for just 74.

Singh's fine performance

WEST BROMWICH Harrier Girmal Singh finished a fine runner-up in the club's annual 5km race on a tough grass course at Aston University Sports Ground, Walsall.

He was just six seconds adrift of Peter Dimbleby of Birchfield Harriers who completed the course in 18minutes 23seconds on a warm night at Aston University Sports Ground, Walsall.

The race attracted 63 entries with ages ranging from 11 to 74.

Other West Bromwich Harriers: 4 James Jefferson 19.03, 8 Gary Whitehouse 19.37, 13 Steve Pitt 20.19, 19 Paul Jakeways 21.26, 23 Dave Jones 22.04, 24 Dominic Ashton 22.44, 36 Dave Mccarthy 24.50, 38 Jim Dixon 25.24, 53 John Buckley 32.27.



The family of Kristian Thomas at the Olympic Park



Kristian Thomas on the vault in London



The Great Britain team with their medals. From left, Sam Oldham, Kristian Thomas, Max Whitlock, Louis Smith and Daniel Purvis

COOL KRISTIAN IS A HISTORY MAKER

HALESOWEN gymnast Kristian Thomas has spoken of his joy after making history at the London 2012 Olympics.

The star, who trains at Earl's Gym in the town, inspired Team GB's men squad to claim bronze in a day of drama at the North Greenwich Arena. It is the first time in 100 years that the men's team have taken an Olympic medal – since Stockholm in 1912 – and they almost ended up with silver.

Japan won their appeal against Kohei Uchimura's pommel horse score to take silver after Team GB initially sat second following the six events with 271.711 points.

And after the late-night drama Thomas, who scored a brilliant 16.500 on the vault, admitted he was in dreamland.

"I keep looking down at the medal and I'm amazed. I'm lost for words," said the 23-year-old afterwards. "We've won a medal but it still hasn't sunk in."

"I'm hoping once the next week is out of the way we can relax, take a moment and realise we've achieved one of the greatest things in the history of our sport."

Special

"I'm completely overwhelmed by the experience. Hopefully in a month I can sit back and take everything in and think I really have done something special."

"It's been 18 years of hard work, blood, sweat and tears – the graft in the gym, the early mornings and the before school training. We really have given it everything in the last few years."

"Even after I finished the floor (the final event) I wasn't 100 per cent convinced we had won a medal."

"Until my score came up I couldn't think 'right, we have actually done it'."

Sam Oldham's fall on the high bar put Team GB's medal hopes in jeopardy but Thomas's 15.200 on the same apparatus and 15.433 in his floor routine sealed

London 2012 Olympics

the bronze. He added: "I remember looking up and not even taking Sam's fall in. I stuck it to the back of my head and didn't even worry about it. When I was chalking up for bars I just thought, 'right this is just like any other situation in the gym, it's not as big an occasion as you think'."

"I just tried to play the whole situation down and that helped," said Thomas, who also competes in the individual events.

Thomas, a former pupil of St Edmund's Catholic School in Wolverhampton, added: "We said before the start of the competition we needed to go out there, relax and enjoy it. I don't know if we did enjoy it – there seemed to be more and more pressure – but the ending was fantastic."

His mother Catherine said: "It's absolutely amazing. Who'd have thought it four years ago, GB getting a men's medal in the Olympics?"

"They have come so far in such a short time."

Meanwhile, **Jess Varnish** insists she is fully focused on going for gold despite letting her mind wander to going on holiday

and acting 'normal' after London 2012.

The 21-year-old from Halesowen partners Victoria Pendleton in the team sprint today.

And, while allowing thoughts of a break from the hard graft of training to enter her mind, Varnish admits it is the memory of watching Pendleton at Beijing 2008 that is looming largest.

"It has been my dream since I was at school watching the Beijing Olympics four years ago so to be here now with Victoria Pendleton in the team sprint is incredible," said Varnish.

"But I am looking forward to going on holiday with my sister and friends."

Water polo player **Alex Parsonage**, from Dudley, made his Olympic debut for Team GB in their 13-4 loss to Romania.

Parsonage, who plays for SV Bayer Uerdingen 08, will seldom have experienced anything like the noise generated by supporters at Stratford. The 5,000-strong crowd lifted their side to a strong finish despite the defeat.

Britain then lost 21-7 to Serbia.



Kristian Thomas celebrates after Great Britain won the bronze medal in London

Fine goal draws final friendly for Tipton

Tipton Town 1 Chasetown 1
LEWIS HAYCOCK'S fine goal gave Tipton Town a draw in their final pre-season friendly.

Haycock met a superb cross by Kevin Montcheu to send home a bullet header.

Tipton got what they wanted from the game – a competitive, combative match.

They displayed a combination of closing down quickly and constructive play against a team who play at step higher.

The team responded well against a Chasetown side looking for their first pre-season win, matching them tackle for tackle.

Chasetown, whose tempo had been good in previous friendlies, were struggling to get their passing game going, but went close to an equaliser when Matt Jukes saw a header come back off the post.

But the home side went close to a second, heading over the bar from a corner, and then had a free-kick scrambled away as they sought to double their advantage.

Chasetown equalised seven minutes into the second half. Gary Hay netted as Tipton waited – to no avail – for a free-kick to be awarded.

Croft's efforts are all in vain

PHIL CROFT'S 4-44 could not save fifth-placed Halesowen from suffering an agonising one-wicket loss to third-placed Barnards Green in Birmingham League Division Two.

Hasan Quami (48) top-scored in Halesowen's 188 before Phil Harris hit 89 to win the game for Barnards Green.

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